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Kent on Sunday

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Chilling fact is every two hours an old person dies from the cold

Exclusive by Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

ONE elderly person in Kent is dying every two hours during the winter months – as a direct result of the cold.

It means over the course of the three winter months – December, January and February – around 1,000 people will have their death attributed to not being warm enough.

And with fuel costs rocketing, it is feared the situation shows little sign of easing.

The shocking statistic was revealed by the Kent Community Foundation (KCF), based on government figures.

It was released following the coldest week of the year so far, with temperatures plunging as low as -8C at night and struggling to get above zero C during the day.

Carol Lynch, chief executive of the KCF – an independent charitable foundation helping to raise money for local causes – called this colder period "the danger time".

She said: "When temperatures have plummeted, and due to changes in their physiology, the elderly – particularly those over 75 – are at risk due to the extreme cold."

And worryingly, chief executive of Age UK in Maidstone, Paul Coles, said in parts of Kent many elderly people are "capital rich, but cash poor" meaning they can't afford expensive heating bills.

He explained: "They turn their heating off to try and save money which is one of the problems.

"Kent has quite extreme weather compared to other parts of the country and it does tend to snow in winter.

"If an elderly person can't get out, they become isolated. If they have a fall,

Continued on page 2

BATTLING TRAUMA

SUPPORT: NHS to invest in mental health care for former soldiers – **SEE INSIDE**

ENVIRONMENT

Take part in big birdwatch

THE RSPB is hoping tens of thousands of people across the county will take part in its annual survey to monitor the number and variety of birds in our gardens this weekend.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's biggest wildlife survey. Find out how to take part inside. **PAGE 3**

LITERATURE

From 'geek' to superheroes

A BEST-selling author, who has also penned comic strip adventures for superheroes such as Superman, Batman, Iron Man and X Men, is hoping to prove a hit with his first novel designed for children.

We talk to the multi-million selling Dan Abnett inside about his growing fame. **PAGE 20**

CRIME

Fresh leads in hunt for killer

AN EMOTIONAL memorial walk to mark 20 years since the brutal death of teenager Claire Tiltman sparked a number of calls to police.

The 16-year-old was stabbed as she walked to a friends house in 1993. Her killer has never been found. Full details inside. **PAGE 28**

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INSIDE

- News 2-31
- Comment/Feedback 32-33
- Kent Remembered 34

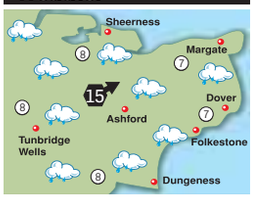
INSIDE

- Interview 37
- Food and Drink 40-41

LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 39, 43

- Business 46-47
- Training and careers 48
- Property 50
- Driving 51-61
- Jobs & Notices 62-69
- Sport 70-71

Weather



TODAY: Showers will clear by the evening. Moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Dry and clear. Showers by dawn. Min temp 1-4C

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.09	6.3	23.31	6.5
Margate	–	–	12.11	4.5
St Mary's	04.48	5.4	17.06	5.3

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 12C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 9C	Min 3C
Saturday	Max 11C	Min 5C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CONTACTS
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS
Editorial: News: 01303 817100
Leisure: 01303 817022
Sport: 01303 817177
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817056
Business: 01303 817056
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
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CARE

As thousands die from the cold more needs to be done to protect the vulnerable elderly

Continued from front page

they may lie there in their house, unable to move through the night when it gets colder.

"If people notice an elderly neighbour hasn't been bringing their milk in or the post hasn't been collected, please check on them. Or check in on them anyway when it's cold."

The number of deaths traditionally rises over the winter months, but the latest statistic will come as a surprise to many in our modern society.

Mr Coles added: "It's like Christmas is a target and once that is over they give in.

"We urge elderly people to keep their heating on – even if they just heat the room they're in – but I also understand that fuel poverty is a real problem."

A public health report stated that for every degree Celsius that the outdoor temperature falls below the winter average, there are 8,000 extra winter deaths in England; equating to around 240 in Kent.

Kent director of public health, Meradin Peachey, said older people with underlying circulatory or respiratory disease have the greatest risk of being affected by the cold.

"Tackling excess winter deaths should involve a three-stage process that includes preparation, identification of vulnerable people and interventions."

Coling Thompson is public health specialist for NHS Kent and Medway.

He said: "There are actions that people can take to minimise the risks of cold weather. These include making sure the temperature of their home is kept between 18C and 21C, stocking up on basic food items and medicines to minimise the need to go outside when it is cold, and ensuring that they wear warm winter clothing including a hat, scarf and warm coat if they do have to go outdoors."

The number of deaths has prompted KCF, and over-50s provider Saga, to call on communities to consider the vulnerable elderly people in the colder months.

They are also asking more well-off households who receive the Government's winter fuel allowance to donate it to needy people through KCF's Surviving Winter campaign – which this newspaper supports.

Every household with residents over the age of 60 receives the fund every winter, regardless of their financial position.

By donating the money – which is as much as £200 – to KCF, the charity can then redirect it to cash-strapped households to help towards bills, as well as outreach services which stop elderly people becoming isolated.

Ms Lynch said: "The Government's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund has offered to match the money we raise from public donations to the Surviving Winter Fund, but we are in need of more generous donors in order to be able to make the most of this generous match."

■ **Visit http://www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html to donate to the appeal.**

EDUCATION

Tables put schools alongside the country's finest for GCSEs

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT and Medway schools are topping the list of the best in the country, according to GCSE league tables.

They show official results from last August highlighting the top, middle and lowest performing schools.

Rochester Grammar School came second nationally after every single one of its pupils gained five A*-C grades, including maths and English.

Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone was also celebrating, having scooped eighth place, and Folkestone School for Girls was close behind, at 14th. Tonbridge Grammar School, Chatham Grammar School for Boys and Benenden School also featured highly.

But while some were celebrating, others found themselves at the bottom of the league tables.

The Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate, while improved since last year, was at 10th in the lowest performing schools, with just 20 per cent of its pupils achieving the benchmark five GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths.

Swan Valley Community School in Swanscombe was also in the lower tables, with 24 per cent.

Cabinet member for education at Kent County Council, Mike Whiting, admitted some schools were not improving as fast as others but work was under way for both academies and maintained schools to ensure results got better.

He said he was delighted, however, with the results of some schools.

"Kent is improving faster than the national average," he said. "It's a reflection of the hard work, not least of the pupils, but also of headteachers, teachers and staff of the county's schools."

He added: "Even in the face of the English GCSE debacle, Kent schools could hold their heads high with their results.

"It was distressing to see headteachers and children in tears when I went round the schools because of the English GCSE problem. I'm hopeful they've moved on from that and progressed in the way they planned."

It emerged after last summer's results that grade boundaries in GCSE English had been raised significantly for pupils sitting assessments in June compared with those sitting early entries in January and March.

Figures showed that pass-rate grade boundaries had been raised by as much as 10 per cent. This resulted in a quarter of schools in the country seeing the number of pupils awarded A*-C in GCSE English drop by five per cent on 2011.

Two exam boards came under fire and it was decided that pupils could retake the exam following the scandal.

PLEASED: Cllr Mike Whiting has praised the schools for their excellent results

Medway Council was also celebrating good league table positions.

A spokesman said: "We congratulate the pupils and teachers at the two secondary schools in Medway listed that are under local authority control as their results have, yet again, improved from the previous year. These are St John Fisher and The Howard School.

"The tables show results for 21 secondary schools across Medway and 19 of these are either academies or schools that are independent from the council.

"However, we would like to say well done to all the pupils, as well as their teachers, for the hard work they have put in to achieve their results."

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WILDLIFE

Make your garden count in birdwatch

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TENS of thousands of people across the county are set to take part in one of the biggest surveys of our local bird populations this weekend.

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch runs across Saturday and Sunday and hopes to provide a snap shot of the health of many of our most familiar feathered friends.

Last year, more than 20,000 people in Kent took part, with close to 600,000 joining in the nationwide event from across the UK.

And it is hoped that after the recent cold snap, there could be a bumper number of birds to spot as they seek food in back gardens.

Taking part requires the monitoring of your garden for just one hour at any time over the weekend, and involves simply counting the number of each different species.

More than nine million birds across the UK were counted last year, in what is believed to be the biggest wildlife survey in the world.

Last year the house sparrow was the most common bird to be spotted in Kent, followed by the starling and the blue tit (see table).

Samantha Stokes, spokesperson for the RSPB in the south east, said; "No matter where people take part, whether at home with the family, with classmates at school or with friends in the beer garden of the local pub, we're joining forces to gather vital information about some of our most familiar garden birds.

"It's a great way to get to know the creatures that live around us, and that's especially important for children.

"Feeding garden birds can often be a child's first encounter with wildlife and can spark a lifelong interest in nature."

Following on from this weekend will be the Big Schools' Birdwatch, which runs all of next week.

Now in its 34th year, the birdwatch has helped to highlight some dramatic declines in UK garden birds.

In the first survey in 1979, an average of 15 starlings were seen per garden, but that fell to an average of just three in 2012, the lowest level ever. House sparrow numbers have fallen by two thirds over the lifetime of the survey too.

Miss Stokes continued: "The decline of birds like starlings and sparrows over the last 30 years or so has been alarming, but Big Garden Birdwatch has helped us find out more about their numbers and distribution across UK gardens, and that has been the first step in helping to put things right."

Some bird species have fared considerably better over the years.

Sightings of popular species like blue tits, great tits and coal tits in gardens have increased since 1979. Goldfinches, which were absent from the Big Garden Birdwatch top 15 in the early years, have featured regularly as a top 15 species since 2004.

■ **Visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch to find out more and take part.**

2012 TOP TEN

1. House sparrow
2. Starling
3. Blue tit
4. Collared dove
5. Blackbird
6. Wood pigeon
7. Chaffinch
8. Great tit
9. Robin
10. Goldfinch

Source: RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

FEATHERED FRIENDS: Blue tits were the third most recorded bird spotted in last year's Big Garden Birdwatch

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gang snowball attack

DETECTIVES are hunting a gang of youths who viciously attacked a 55-year-old man who asked them to stop throwing snowballs at his house in Hoo.

He went outside his home in Knights Road at around 8.45pm on Monday and grabbed one of them by the arm, before he was punched in the face and repeatedly kicked in the head. He was then hit with an object on the back of the head. He suffered injuries to his eye and cheek.

Jobless figures drop

UNEMPLOYMENT numbers across the county fell in the three months to November by 324 and now stand at 34,402.

Medway was one of the top performing areas in the south as its number of people out of work figure fell by 153 to 6,655.

For the remainder of the county the number fell by 171 to 27,747

However, there were small rises in Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Swale.

Jail for robbing £3 fare

TWO men have been jailed for 18 months after robbing a 14-year-old boy of his £3 bus fare home.

Stephen Campbell, 20, of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, and Michael Beardmore, 31, of Weavers Way, Dover, pleaded guilty following last June's robbery in London Road, Dover.

The court heard how the two men confronted the teenager and grabbed him around the neck area, demanding cigarettes and money.

The terrified boy, scared of being hit, handed over his bus money.

CRIME

Teen shone laser pen at helicopter

A TEENAGER who dazzled police by shining a laser pen at a police helicopter as it attempted fo find an injured man has been sentenced at youth court.

The 17-year-old, from Hersden, near Canterbury, who cannot be named for legal reasons, shone the green laser light in the cockpit of the helicopter on the evening of December 16.

Police say such an act was potentially hugely dangerous and could have had devastating consequences that night.

Officers onboard were trying to help colleagues on the ground search for a man hurt after being involved in a collision.

The teenager was sentenced at Canterbury Youth Court to a youth rehabilitation order which consists of a three-month curfew. He must also pay £40 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Russ Woolford, base manager at the Air Support Unit, said: "Shining a laser at an aircraft causes significant danger to not only the crew on board, but the public below.

"It is a criminal offence and it could have fatal consequences.

"Due to the equipment on board, the crew were able to trace the offender's exact location and used the aircraft video camera to record the incident.

"Shining a laser at an aircraft is a serious incident and we will continue to prosecute anyone carrying out this offence."

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INVESTIGATION

Pulling power of the micropubs

Special KoS Report No music, no TVs, no lager or spirits, just real ale – **Joe Bill** meets the people at the vanguard of a growing business model currently revolutionising the UK drinks industry

AS THE high street struggles to cope with the deafening noise of falling retail giants, could their be some cheer on the horizon with a boom in micropubs?

The low-key drinking holes are springing up all around Britain, but it is in Kent, a county synonymous with hops, in which they are thriving.

Setting up in former shop premises, the micropub is a back-to-basics drinking experience, which capitalises on the change to licensing laws eight years ago.

Not tied to any big breweries, they source local real ales, shun lagers and spirits, ban video and gambling machines while the thought of big screen TVs sends a shiver down their spine.

Instead, they rely on developing an atmosphere based on good company and good ale.

There are currently 16 in the UK – and seven of those are in the county. What's more, they're set to double in the county within the next few months.

One of the founders of the micropub boom is Martyn Hillier, landlord of The Butcher's Arms at Herne, near Canterbury, the country's first micropub.

Since opening in 2005, it has bagged several awards from the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).

Mr Hillier said: "I thought of the concept; real ale, no music, no mobile phones, no TV, no lager or spirits.

"The micropub model is a growing revolution in the pub world as overheads are low and it is possible to make a profit and hence a reasonable living.

"My concept – to convert empty shops into small pubs – is possible because of the change in the licensing laws in 2005, which saw a shake-up in the rules over the sale of alcohol.

"Pubs are closing these days because of high rents and long hours. The premises are often too large and worth more as a house than a pub."

Mr Hillier, who is also leader of the Micropubs Association which supports those opening up such establishments, firmly believes the model he started will continue to grow in the future.

He said: "In 2009, I was asked to do a presentation at Camra's AGM on micropubs. From that presentation others have been inspired to open similar pubs in the UK.

"Currently there are 16 open, of which seven are in Kent, and there are seven more to follow in the county by Easter."

Food is generally shunned, but some do serve local cheeses or pork pies as an aperitif to their ales.

He added: "The art of conversation has returned to my pub. Complete strangers actually talk to each other while enjoying a pint of real ale in top condition."

WATERING HOLE: The Black Dog in Whitstable is opening in the coming months

...but what of the big boys?

Faversham brewer Shepherd Neame, which owns more than 300 establishments across the UK, does not believe there will be a detrimental impact from the micropub movement.

Sales and marketing director Graeme Craig said: "We welcome anything that broadens the audience for good quality beer.

"We enjoyed working with some of Kent's microbreweries for the Green Hop Beer fortnight in 2012, and look forward to participating in the project again this year."

Landlords starting up can select premises not previously used as a pub, they can select their own cask ales and, in some cases, even impose some unusual rules.

As we reported last week, the Firkin Alehouse in Folkestone bans the use of mobile phones and charges its guests £1 if they have to use them, with the cash going to charity.

Parallels are being drawn with the retail sector as the economic climate continues to kill off chain stores but is allowing more niche boutique shops, which add a little character too, to flourish.

With many experts suggesting our town centres need to embrace a more continental 'café culture' to inject life back into them, the micropub may yet prove a vital component to its revival.

What's more, they are providing a shot in the arm for microbreweries – of which there are around 25 in the county.

At the Conqueror Alehouse in Ramsgate the micropub landlord offers Gadds' Ramsgate RPA from the brewery just down the road. It's easy to source and the lack of road miles helps to keep the price of the ale low.

Thanet is flush with these new-style inns and already houses the Four Candles Alehouse in Broadstairs, the Bake and Ale House in Westgate-on-Sea and the part bookshop/part drinking hole now known as The Chapel in Broadstairs.

Julian Dungey, chairman of the Thanet branch of Camra, has his own theories on why micropubs are thriving in the county.

He said: "It's the fairly low start-up and running costs: overheads are kept to a minimum, they employ very few staff, there are reduced opening hours, no expensive entertainment or gambling licences, and low rents as they are found mainly in former shops.

"Micropubs have cornered a market in providing a service people actually want rather than the big pubs telling customers what they think they want."

And there is likely to be one near you soon. Over the coming months there will be new micropubs in Whitstable, Tankerton, Birchington, Ramsgate, Margate, Welling and Wye.

Mr Dungey added: "Micropubs are the future and we appear to have come full circle.

"In the past landlords would open up their front parlour for the consumption of beers they had brewed themselves for the locals. People seem to have tired of the brash noisy pub and prefer the safe quiet atmosphere the micropub provides."

■ **For more information visit www.micropub-association.co.uk.**

HAIL TO THE ALE: Locals enjoy a pint at The Butcher's Arms at Herne, the country's first micropub

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HEALTH

NHS funds project to help ex-service personnel cope with trauma of war

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MENTALLY traumatised ex-soldiers trying to adjust to civilian life are to be given extra support to help them cope with the horrors they experienced during their time on the frontline.

Research shows that combat veterans aged 24 and under are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than non-military people.

Ex-military personnel also have higher rates of alcohol misuse than the general population, with alcohol believed to be used as a coping mechanism for post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety or depression.

But despite this, evidence suggests these people often fail to seek help due to the stigma surrounding mental health in the military.

In a bid to help ex-service personnel, NHS Kent and Medway is investing £150,000 over the next three years in a project to support people who have left or are leaving the Armed Forces, and help them with mental health care they may need when adjusting to life back on civvy street.

Lauretta Kavanagh, lead commissioner for mental health for NHS Kent and Medway, said: "Many military personnel have experienced the horror of the battlefield during their careers.

"When they leave the Army, they can feel alone, find employment difficult and might relive some of their experiences which further isolates them from their friends and family. They might turn to alcohol to help them cope and mask mental health problems.

"We recognise the need for mental health support for ex-service personnel and their families, which is why we have announced this investment. The need for help will rise following the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and 20,000 redundancies planned in the defence review, of which a significant number will be in Kent and Medway."

There are some 130,000 ex-service personnel living in the county.

The project will educate mental health professionals in the military way of thinking, culture and language so they understand what ex-soldiers may have experienced.

They can then adapt their support. Therapies proved to help treat complex and multiple trauma will also be made available.

"The project will increase awareness among GPs and mental health professionals about the particular difficulties veterans face," said Dr Bob Bowes, clinical chair for West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group.

A Veterans' Mental Health Network is being set up to ensure the most appropriate services for those who need them.

STRESS OF BEING TRAINED TO KILL

SHOCKING figures released by Kent Police and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) in 2010, showed the alarming number of ex-military being arrested in the county.

Over a three-month period some 232 former and current servicemen were arrested.

SSAFA defended the high figure blaming the stress of the job, death of comrades and difficulty in adjusting back to real life.

A Kent spokesman said: "The job is highly stressful and highly challenging.

"We're training ordinary human beings to kill people.

"They're also seeing their friends killed in front of their eyes. It's very hard to adjust back to real life after this."

Motorcyclist is killed

A 20-year-old motorcyclist was killed on Thursday after a crash on the Ashford-bound carriageway of the A2042 Romney Marsh Road.

It is believed he came off his bike at around 10.10am. Any witnesses should call 101.

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ACCIDENT

Community mourns 25-year-old who froze to death outside sister's house

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TRIBUTES have been paid to a "chatty and bubbly" young woman who became a victim of the Arctic weather that swept across the county.

Bernadette Lee, from Deal, was found dead next to her sister's house in the early hours of Sunday morning by a man walking his dog.

It is believed she perished in the cold weather after falling while trying to get into the house in Church Meadows.

She was wearing a dress and no coat.

It is understood Ms Lee had become separated from her sister during a night out and tried to get into her sister's house, possibly slipping and finding herself unable to get back up.

Tributes have been paid to the 25-year-old, described as having a "heart of gold", and a page on online social networking website Facebook has been set up in her memory.

Messages posted on the site describe her as a girl who lived life to the full with an "infectious smile and laugh".

Another posted: "The Deal people are a lovely community and the place is the poorer for losing someone as well spoken of and well thought of as she was."

Kent Police confirmed her death was not being treated as suspicious, describing it as a tragic accident.

TRAGIC: Bernadette Lee died from cold weather

A police spokeswoman said Bernadette – known as Bernie to family and friends – was found collapsed in the snow by a dog walker on Sunday at 7.30am.

Police officers and an ambulance crew were called, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

The spokeswoman said: "She was a local woman to Deal. She was found collapsed in the snow. The death is not being treated as suspicious; it was likely to have been a tragic accident."

SNOWBALL 'ASSAULT'

■ A bus driver is recovering after being hit in the face with a snowball, leaving him with swelling and bruising.

The incident happened at the bus stop outside William Hill bookmakers in Stanhope Road, Ashford, at 3.10pm on Monday.

As the driver was letting on passengers, a snowball hit him in the face.

Police are treating the incident as assault and are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

■ Temperatures plunged as low as -9C in some areas this week, as the icy blast gripped the county for most of the week.

But forecasters say temperatures are set to rise this weekend, although will be accompanied by wind and rain.

■ **Turn to page 11 for a round-up of snow images from across the county.**

CRIME

Yobs hit train driver

A TRAIN driver needed hospital treatment after being attacked as he challenged a group of youths.

The incident happened on Tuesday afternoon at the Bat and Ball station near Sevenoaks on the 4.24pm Kentish Town to Sevenoaks service.

The youths had been fooling around with the doors of the train when the assault took place.

RESCUE

Dog sparks house fire

A PET dog is being blamed for turning on a kitchen hob which sparked a blaze at a home in Dartford.

Fire crews say it is thought to have been started when the family's Rottweiler turned on the heat which ignited laundry left near by. The dog was saved and the owner checked over at hospital after suffering from smoke inhalation.

CRIME

Jail for VAT fraudster

A BUSINESSMAN has been jailed for 16 months for VAT fraud, after using fake invoices in an attempt to reclaim more than £36,000 tax he hadn't paid.

Reginald Adaka, 46, of Sittingbourne had submitted false claims in the name of his company Unimax Marketing, which sells electronic goods.

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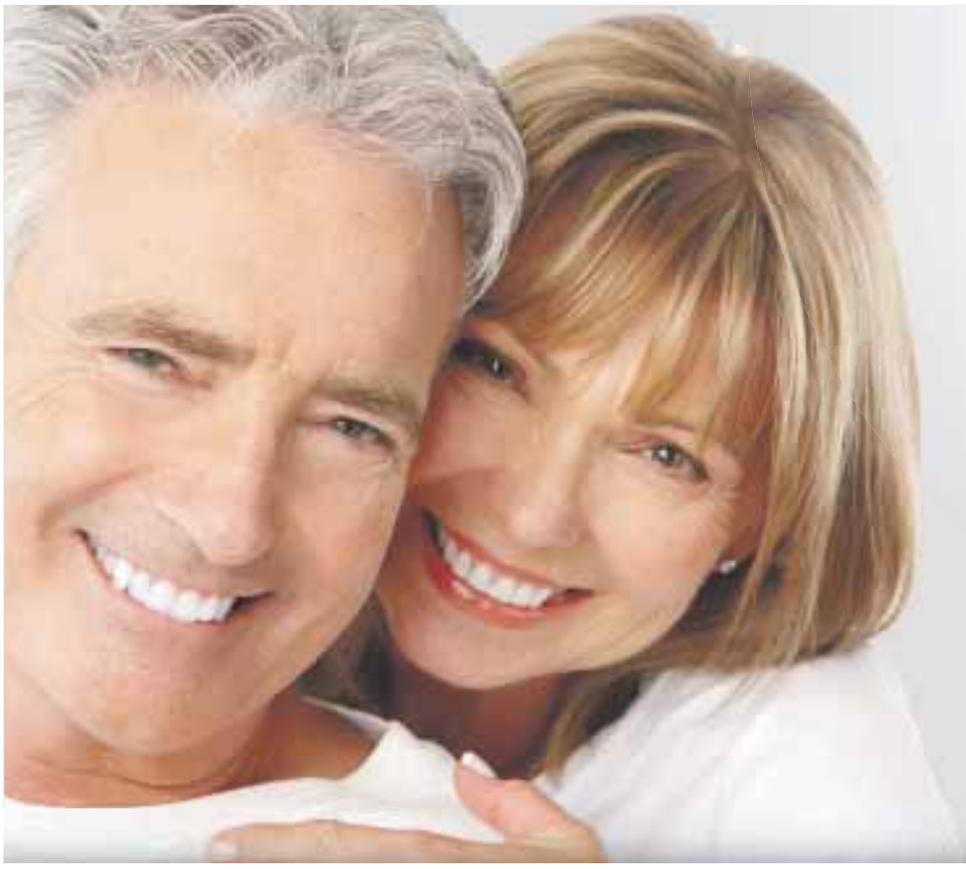

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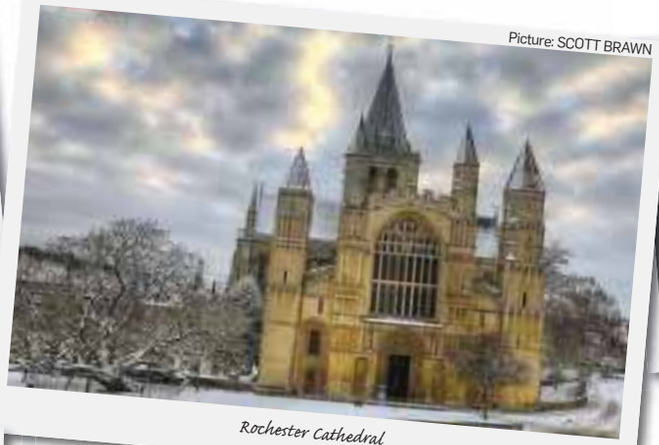
Picture: HAYLEY BROWN

A snow family in Darenth

Picture: SCOTT BRAWN



Rochester Cathedral

Picture: PAUL FOURACRE

The Empire Strikes Back in Rainham

Picture: ANTIGONE COTE

The Port of Dover

WEATHER

County shivers after a week in an icy grip

MORE than 200 schools closed their doors on Monday as the county groaned under the weight of heavy snow showers last weekend.

But with most of the snow falling during the day on Sunday, and plenty of advance warning, the county's key transport routes were kept moving.

However, the prolonged sub-zero temperatures throughout the week did cause delays on the rails and made driving conditions, especially on side roads, treacherous.

But, as ever, while many struggled, plenty of others enjoyed the winter white-out – with our readers sending in some of their highlights.

Snow angel in Whitstable

Picture: WARREN LIGHTFOOT

White water in Canterbury

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CAUGHT ON CAMERA: CCTV footage of Ashcroft in Medway Maritime

CRIME

'Sickening' arsonist targeted hospitals to fund drugs habit

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A CRUEL crook who set fire to two Kent hospitals, forcing cancer patients who were receiving treatment to evacuate the premises and causing thousands of pounds of damage, has been sentenced to eight years behind bars.

Thomas Ashcroft, 35, of no fixed abode, was arrested following a series of arson attacks on hospitals, hotels and public places during July and August of last year.

On his sentencing, police chiefs said his crimes were "sickening" and that it was a miracle no-one was seriously hurt or even killed as a result of his actions.

Ashcroft lit the fires in a bid to distract employees so he could steal cash.

He targeted two Kent hospitals – Medway Maritime in Gillingham and the Kent and Canterbury – forcing the building to be evacuated, and disrupting the treatment of patients.

Ashcroft was caught on CCTV at Medway Maritime on August 29 where he started a fire in a store cupboard.

Prompt action by Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) resulted in the blaze being extinguished quickly and no-one was injured in the incident. However, it is estimated that between £10,000 and £15,000 worth of damage was caused.

Just a day later, Ashcroft targeted the hospital in Canterbury and again started a fire in a cupboard. During the evacuation of the hospital he stole £25 from the hospital café. In this instance £70,000 of damage was caused.

Ashcroft was arrested after contacting Kent Police from a telephone box in Ramsgate and handing himself in regarding a separate matter.

After his arrest, officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate launched an investigation.

Enquiries linked him to three offences in Kent and subsequently to a string of offences across the country including crimes in Manchester, Rotherham and Brighton – all of which used the same method of fire to distract as he stole cash or property.

Overseeing the investigation was Detective Inspector Lee Whitehead.

He said: "Ashcroft put the lives of hundreds of people in danger to steal money to finance his drug habit.

"His actions were entirely selfish. To force cancer patients to abandon their treatment is nothing short of sickening and Ashcroft should be ashamed for causing stress and anxiety to those who are fighting serious illness.

"It is testament to the staff at the various establishments and the prompt reactions of the fire service that nobody was hurt, seriously injured or killed."

FIRE SERVICE FURY

KFRS'S director of service delivery, Steve Griffiths, said: "While these were small fires, there is no doubt the quick response and actions of our crew prevented them from turning into a major incident.

"Our investigators worked closely with Kent Police and the link was soon established, leading us to implement extra precautions at these sites.

"Hospitals are inherently safe buildings with robust fire precautions built in; we have an excellent relationship with healthcare partners and thank their staff and the public for being so vigilant during that period."

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King's Rochester is a very special place. It occupies a majestic site between Rochester's ancient castle and its cathedral overlooking the River Medway but its imposing and ancient exterior belies a warmth rarely found in a school whose traditions go back over 1400 years.

Founded in 604, King's has evolved into an outstanding 21st century school for 3 to 18 year old boys and girls with excellent facilities at all levels. The School has also just acquired the former Stirling Sports Centre on Maidstone Road which, after a half million pound refurbishment, will provide King's pupils - and the local community who share it - with some of the best sporting facilities in the South East. Academic standards are high - but King's is a school with a broad ability intake and we recognise that every child here is unique with talents and strengths which may extend far beyond the classroom. Principal, Jeremy Walker is proud that the School's strapline, "A Community that enables individuals to flourish", is central to everything it does.

Now this highly successful school is offering a rare chance for talented pupils to join King's in Year 8 in September 2013 due to the creation of a range of Academic, Sports and Music Scholarships.

Details are available from Registrar, Lynne Davies on 01634 888590 or by email on admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk.

Applications close on Monday 4th February 2013.

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Next Open Day - Friday 1st March from 9.30am to 12 noon.

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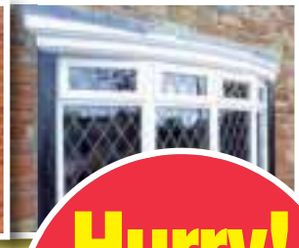

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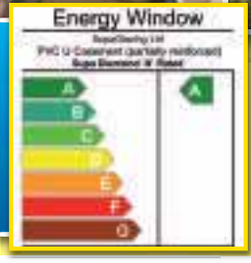

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MAKING USE OF WHAT WE'VE ALREADY BUILT

Live Margate's developers and the politicians backing the scheme were upbeat when the project was launched on January 16.

Cllr Dance visited Dalby Square, one of worst areas for deprivation in Thanet – and across the county.

But he said he was struck by the potential of what he saw.

He explained: "These beautiful large Edwardian buildings can be bought back to former glories. They are far better built than modern boxes and it is better to restore what we have rather than keep building in the countryside."

■ **What do you think of the scheme? Share your view. Write to: The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

HOUSING

Fears amid the hope as ambitious regeneration scheme gets under way

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN AMBITIOUS multi-million pound scheme to regenerate parts of Margate, and breathe new life into deprived areas of the town has been launched.

But critics of the scheme – which aims to restore Edwardian buildings to their original splendour to attract more affluent house buyers – say it is social engineering, where the most vulnerable could be forced out of their homes.

Live Margate is a £23.1 million project aimed at regenerating areas beset by social problems and run down, derelict properties. It is spearheaded by Thanet District Council, Kent County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

It says low quality, high density, bedsits can lead to poverty and deprivation. So the plan is to create a "tipping-point" by renovating enough properties to attract a new wave of affluent, employed, residents.

The scheme is aimed at two council wards, Margate Central and Cliftonville West, which have, in recent years, been home to a large number of troubled and vulnerable residents; many living in poorly maintained bedsits owned by absentee landlords. The first stage is the acquisition of the former Embassy Hotel.

Live Margate aims to restore up to 300 premises, using compulsory purchase orders if necessary, and make them available for shared ownership, affordable rent or owner occupation.

The Embassy Hotel was one of the main features of Edwardian Cliftonville, a popular and stylish holiday venue. But as it fell into disrepair it became the site of 30 flats, before it was vandalised and abandoned.

Now contractors Richardson Ltd are tasked with its restoration and conversion to two, four bedroom, family homes.

John Neville, managing director, said: "We intend to be finished by July. The homes could be on the market for up to £200,000. And as the area undergoes regeneration, so the prices of homes will rise."

Madeline Homer, director of community services for Thanet council, said the project is aimed at an overall restoration of the area: "Part of the project involves work skills programmes and education. To integrate people more into society will be of great benefit to everyone."

Ms Homer said the area had seen significant levels of reported drug abuse, but this had dropped by nine per cent following a police crackdown.

But the scheme does create some social engineering questions which concern many.

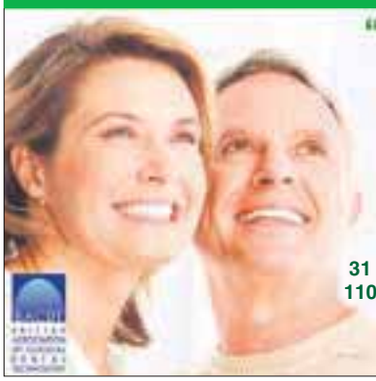
Ian Driver is an independent Thanet councillor.

He said: "There are around 5,500 people on the housing list in Thanet and here is an opportunity to provide accommodation for some of them in the form of social rented housing. There is some provision for this, but not as much as I would like.

"I am also worried about what is going to happen to the people being dispersed.

"There is the potential for vulnerable people to be left without a home. I understand a dispersal strategy has been established. But no details have been made available."

The Denture Clinic



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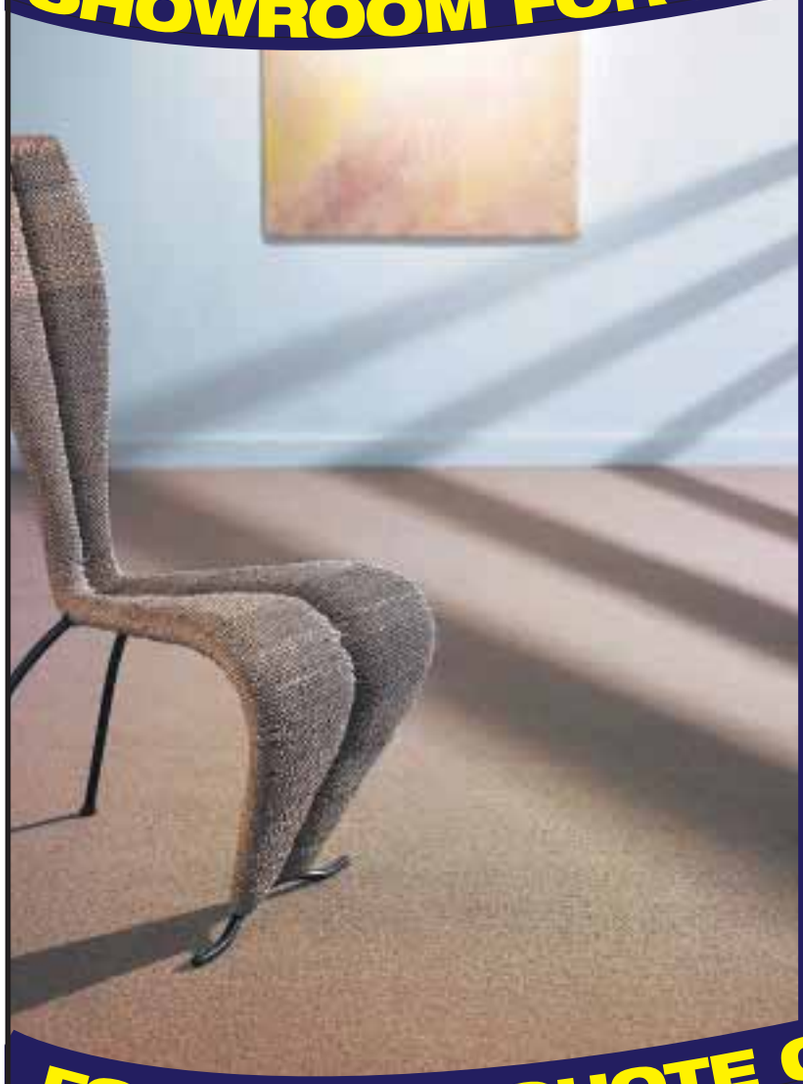

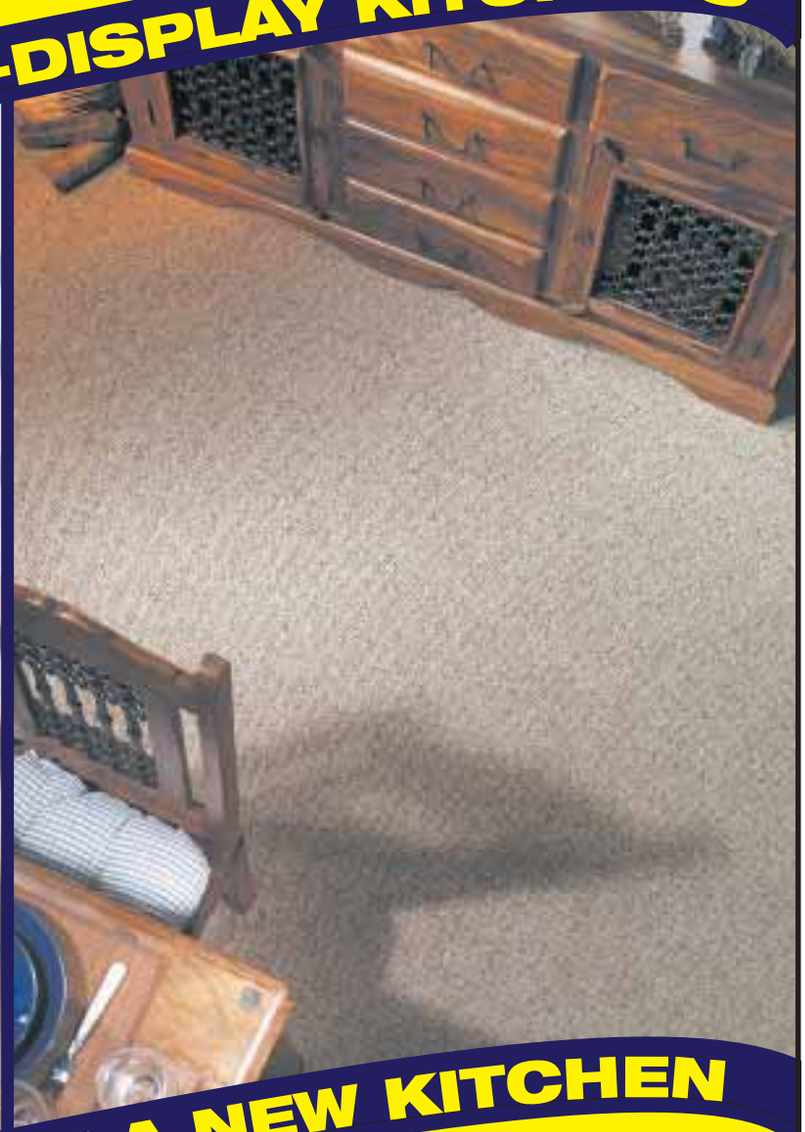

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TECHNOLOGY

Firm's magnetic role in making the Hadron Collider a success

Exclusive
By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE role a Kent company played in one of the most exciting scientific break-throughs in a generation – the discovery of the so-called God particle – has emerged.

Hythe firm HV Wooding were chosen ahead of competitors around the world to help construct the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

It was built to investigate the very origins of the universe and proved the existance of the Higgs boson (see box).

The Hythe firm created the vital yokes to hold in place magnets which generate the particles used to get a better understanding of the fundamental laws of nature.

The scientific trade secret was revealed when business minister and Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon visited the company's Range Road Industrial Estate plant.

"You helped to discover the God particle – and from a small business in Kent," said a clearly astonished Mr Fallon.

Harry Wooding, managing director of the family firm which has been operating since 1966, said: "This shows that our business is, quite literally, at the cutting edge of science. What is also gratifying is that we beat off competition from companies across Europe – because the physicists working on the Hadron were confident we could deliver the precision engineering they required."

ACHIEVEMENT: Michael Fallon was impressed to learn HV Wooding provided parts used in the generation of particles necessary for discovering the previously elusive Higgs boson

HV Wooding started work on the particle physics project – which is housed in a 17-mile long circular tunnel 175 metres below the countryside of the Franco-Swiss border, close to Geneva – in 2011.

The firm has since completed around £400,000 of business with its operators, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), and further contracts are expected, with Wooding staff frequent visitors to the experimental facility.

One £70,000 deal was reached as the Hythe company's tender was just £50 lower than its nearest rival.

WHAT IS THE HIGGS BOSON?

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) took 10 years to build, becaming operational in 2008. Its purpose is to allow scientists to test different theories about the exact nature of the matter which makes up the universe.

The £2.6 billion device works by accelerating two beams of atomic particles in opposite directions around the tunnel.

When the particle beams reach their maximum speed the LHC allows them to hit each other at four points on their circular journey. Thousands of new particles are produced when the particles collide and detectors placed around the collision points allow scientists to identify these new particles by tracking their behaviour.

As the energy produced in the collisions increases researchers are able to look deeper into the fundamental structure of time and space. In these extreme conditions previously unknown atomic particles may appear.

One of those identified last year was the so-called God particle – which gives matter its mass and so holds the physical fabric of the universe together. It is officially called the Higgs boson particle after its existence was first proposed by Professor Peter Higgs almost 50 years ago.

Scientists said the discovery was a gateway to a new era that could see humanity unlock some of the universe's great mysteries. They have speculated that it could one day make light speed travel possible by removing the mass of objects, or allow huge items to be launched into space by "effectively switching off" the Higgs.

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DRAGON FRONTIER

Published by Puffin, Dragon Frontier is the first of a trilogy aimed at the younger audience, and one which Mr Abnett came face-to-face with this week on a whistle-stop tour of schools across the south east.

The action adventure book, aimed at readers aged nine up, is his first for children.

"It's a proper old school adventure," he said. "I have been lucky having worked in comics and sci-fi and they come with a pre-built fan base who are immensely enthusiastic about this stuff. To have that interaction is terrific. But this is for an audience who come with no expectations other than it is for their age group – so there will be a purity of fan base which will be very interesting to see."

The book has been critically well received so far and is available now in paperback, priced at £6.99.

BOOKS

Marvel at the international cult hero who's a creative superman

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE name of Dan Abnett may not mean a lot to you. But for many millions around the world he is rapidly assuming cult celebrity status.

He he has sold more than three million books in over a dozen languages and is a multiple New York Times best-selling novelist.

What's more, he has created comic storylines for some of the world's most famous superheroes such as Superman, Batman and Iron Man, written books for the likes of Doctor Who and Torchwood, and when the latest movie based on characters created by Marvel hits the big screen later this year, it will based upon his work.

In short, Dan Abnett, 47, is a big deal in the world of fantasy and science fiction.

Today, he can tour the world attending conventions where fans will jet thousands of miles just to meet him – and him in particular – to get their book signed.

So it's little wonder then, as he strolls the streets of the Kent town he grew up in, and 15 years ago returned to live in with his wife and two daughters, he's started getting recognised.

Picture: JAMES K BARNETT

GRAPHIC GENIUS: Dan Abnett has written and drawn a number of popular comic book heroes

"Early on, when I was first cutting my teeth with the famous franchises, they had no idea who I was," the author explains, from his Maidstone home. "Now people will seek me out because they enjoy my books.

"At some conventions, people will queue for four hours with a suitcase of every book I've ever written, asking me to sign every one of them.

"And over the last two or three years, I've started getting recognised. I will be out in Maidstone and they'll spot me. Or people strike up a conversation with me. It is the weirdest thing."

But Mr Abnett works in a slightly bizarre world.

In addition to his scriptwriting work for comic giants such as Marvel, DC and 2000AD, he writes books for the likes of Doctor Who, is currently working on a comic for Battlestar Galatica, and has sold vast quantities of books based on the popular Warhammer table-top game.

He admits he inhabits a world of nerds and geeks ("I consider myself to be both" he says.).

"I think I'm one of them," he says of his audience. "If I wasn't writing I would be reading it. I identify with that enthusiasm and I bring that to my writing. I write what I would read if I was my target audience. I hope that comes across."

But what of the famously rabid fan bases who can be so vocal if they feel the direction of their hero has taken a wrong turn?

"You do have to be quite thick skinned," the author says, "because even if you do something well and 95 per cent of your audience enjoy what you have written, there will always on the internet be an enclave of people who spend their time picking holes in it.

"I think if I spent too much time on the forums I could end up feeling very sorry for myself."

The son of two art teachers, he discovered his love of superhero comics when he was nine, and combined his love of writing and drawing to create his own comics.

After attending school in Maidstone and Rochester he went to Oxford University. He then landed a job in the Marvel UK office, where he scripted storylines for the likes of the Ghostbusters, Care Bears and Thomas the Tank Engine franchises. Honing his skills, he began a career path which would see him create storylines for some of the biggest names in the industry – Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Iron Man, Judge Dread and X Men. To name but a few.

"In the 1990s I started working for the big American comic publishers and the likes of 2000AD. I started picking up novels on commission and since then I tend to write novels in the morning and comic scripts in the afternoon."

He created Sinister Dexter for 2000AD and is now working on "cosmic superhero" book The Hypernaturals, and is soon to embark on writing scripts for Superman's latest adventures.

Then there's the small issue of promoting his first children's novel – Dragon Frontier (see box).

While Mr Abnett may not be a name familiar with most right now, that may not be the case for much longer.

After the success of the Avengers movie, Marvel's next big screen outing is Guardians of the Galaxy – with the movie based on a comic he wrote alongside writing partner Andy Lanning.

"We're not involved in the film – but it is based on our line-up," he explains. "We're in the dark as much as anyone else but it will be very exciting to see what they do to it."

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- **Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks**
- Joss Bay Surf School, Broadstairs
- **Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway**

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THOUSANDS of free tickets to the county's top tourist attractions will be up for grabs as My Kent Big Weekend returns for 2013.

The annual event, launched by Visit Kent seven years ago, will see more than 17,000 free tickets on offer for attractions big and small.

LOTS OF CHOICES: From left, Penshurst Place, Kent and East Sussex Railway and Port Lympne are among the many attractions to choose from

All the tickets are awarded via a ballot – the website for which goes fully live on Monday, January 28. Each household in the county can apply for two tickets.

Among the activities and attractions on offer will be castles, vineyards, wildlife parks and riverboat tours.

The website will remain open for applications until midnight on Febuary 18.

My Big Kent Weekend – when the tickets can be used – will be March 23 and 24. It now forms part of English Tourism Week.

Among the attractions taking part are: Tonbridge Castle, the Historic Dockyard Chatham, Rochester Cathedral, the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, Leeds Castle, Penshurst Place, Dover Castle, and Kent & East Sussex Railway.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "My Kent Big Weekend is all about having fun and celebrating the variety of attractions and hidden gems which make our county such a popular destination for day visits and short breaks.

"These attractions, and the wide range of sporting and creative activities available, entertain our visitors but they also add so much to our quality of life as Kent residents.

"My Kent Big Weekend gives us all an opportunity to get out and about and discover new days out and entertainment on our doorstep – and then we are able to recommend those experiences to all our friends and families."

Anyone without internet access to visit www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk can go to a local visitor information centre for more information and to enter the ballot.

KEY DATES

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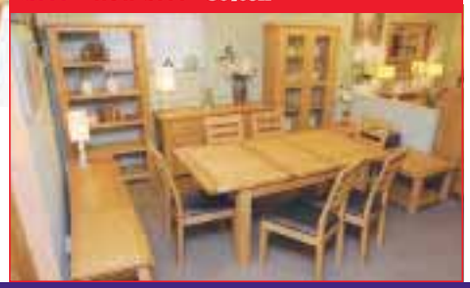

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NATURE

Thousands add name to a petition calling for tough regulations to protect our seas

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government to bring in more protection for our coastal habitats with a 250,000-strong petition handed in to Westminster.

It follows a decision last year to reduce the number of proposed designated Marine Conservation Zones from 11 to four in Kent.

Those four are; the Medway Estuary, Thanet coast, Hythe Bay and Folkestone Pomerania.

But others – including the at-risk Swale Estuary, Thames Estuary, Dover to Deal, and Dover to Folkestone coastline – have been discarded from the list, despite wildlife experts insisting they need protection due to the important habitats and species they boast, such as chalk reefs, fish nursery grounds, rossworm reefs, mussel beds, seals and seahorses.

Kent's quartet are among the 31 selected nationwide as proposed protected zones. This is far fewer than the initial 127 zones judged as at-risk by government advisors at Natural England.

However, the Government says it has "every intention" of designating these sites eventually.

The Wildlife Trust said it was disappointed at the decision to cut the number by so much and launched a petition to highlight public support for greater marine protection.

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MARINE Conservation Zones will receive extra protection of important habitats and species.

The special designation will protect them from the most damaging activities, such as trawling and dredging, while at the same time allowing sustainable activity to continue, including fishing and recreation.

The public consultation on MCZs closes on Sunday, March 31.

Some 250,000 signatures were collected, of which several thousand were from Kent.

The county's branch of the Wildlife Trust backed the move and admitted it was "bitterly disappointed" the full 11 recommended were not included on the Government's consultation list.

Marine policy officer Bryony Chapman said: "We are encouraging members of the public to respond to the Government's consultation and help ensure the 31 sites the Government have selected are just the start. We must ensure the remaining sites are not forgotten, and that we do achieve a meaningful network of sites that will restore health to our marine wildlife."

Kent Wildlife Trust has demanded the Government set a "clear timetable" for the rest of the network to be designated with protection.

"The Government's list leaves seven sites unprotected around Kent: Thames Estuary, Swale Estuary, Goodwin Sands, Dover to Deal, Dover to Folkestone, Offshore Foreland and Kentish Knock," said a trust spokesman.

"These sites are home to important habitats and species, including fish nursery grounds, mussel beds, seals and seahorses."

The trust demanded proper protection of sites as soon as they are designated, including banning bottom-trawling and dredging in those areas.

The Wildlife Trust's president, Simon King, said he was heartened to hear the Government confirm it intends to designate the full 127 eventually.

But he stressed the urgency in getting more sites protected.

"We understand that resources don't allow this to happen in the first year – nonetheless the pressure is on," he said.

"Time is of the essence. With every passing week, month, year, we are at risk of losing more of this precious resource."

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ENVIRONMENT

French gas leak leaves bad smell

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT bore the brunt of a French stench this week when a sickly sweet odour – described as similar to that of rotten eggs or oil – swept in on Tuesday, forcing people to keep windows and doors shut.

The unpleasant smell wafted across the Channel, caused by a leak at a chemical factory in Rouen, in north east France.

While authorities stressed that the gas posed no risk, the smell – which came in on the air from Dover to as far as Tunbridge Wells – sparked a deluge of calls to police and the fire service.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) urged people to keep doors and windows closed.

Lubrizol France, which makes additives for industrial lubricants and paint, said the gas was mercaptan, a colourless but smelly gas used in natural gas to enable leaks to be detected.

It is understood the pong stretched for hundreds of miles across France and southern parts of England.

A Health Protection Agency spokesman said people in Kent, East and West Sussex and some parts of Surrey had noticed the smell, but that it posed no risk to public health.

"It was caused by a particularly smelly chemical that is added to odourless natural gas to give that its characteristic smell," he said.

"The chemical leaked from a factory in Rouen on Monday and was blown across the Channel overnight.

"It is not toxic and has also been diluted before entering the air over England, so people should be reassured it will cause no harm. It is an unpleasant odour which may cause some people to feel slightly nauseous but it will dispel naturally."

KFRS received a large number of calls to reports of a gas smell mainly across south Kent but also in Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

It's not the first time Kent has had to bear the brunt of unpleasant pongs.

Last summer, manure and other organic materials spread on fields by farmers caused such a stink, people living in Ashford, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sittingbourne, Whitstable, Canterbury, Broadstairs and Shepway had to keep windows closed during the hot spell.

ENTERTAINMENT

Delight at panto

THE curtain finally came down on the pantomime at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre last weekend, as audiences battled through the snow to watch the traditional winter hit.

During its run, close to 84,000 people viewed the production, which starred the likes of singer Gareth Gates and actress, presenter and performer Toyah Willcox.

In total there were 92 performances and the theatre was on average 80 per cent full.

Theatre director Mark Everett said: "More people saw Sleeping Beauty than any other Marlowe pantomime. I am absolutely delighted."

Already, more than 15,500 tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk, next year's production, have been sold despite the line-up not yet revealed.

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CRIME

Police follow new leads in 20-year-old murder investigation as friends stage memorial walk

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 250 people marked the 20th anniversary of one of Kent's most notorious unsolved murder cases last week – sparking a flurry of potential new leads to police.

Schoolgirl Claire Tiltman was brutally stabbed as she walked down an alleyway near her home in Greenhithe on January 18, 1993.

And to mark the date, her friends staged an emotional candlelit walk tracing her last steps to keep her memory alive and to remind people the hunt is still on to find her killer.

Most significantly, it lead to around a dozen phone calls to investigators.

The schoolgirl's parents Lin and Cliff have both since passed away without ever seeing justice for their only child.

The man currently in charge of the investigation, Detective Superintendent Rob Vinson said: "The candlelit walk went very well and was well attended, with about 250 people present.

"The publicity from the event resulted in about a dozen calls to police, all of which are being examined."

A group of her school friends, Emma Edwards, Nichola Medhurst and Lisa Gribbin, got together and set up a page on online social networking website Facebook to organise the walk in the hope it would stir up old memories and lead to someone coming forward with a vital piece of new evidence.

The Dartford Grammar School pupil, known to her friends as Tilt, was stabbed more than 40 times, four days after her 16th birthday.

The route of the walk followed those last steps and ended with a service at St Mary the Virgin church in Stone.

Local vicar Rev Kenneth Clark conducted the service and told this paper afterwards: "We remember Claire as she was.

"We sang the school hymn Praise My Soul The King of Heaven, and I read a poem from a Robert Frost book called The Outsiders.

"The poem was Nothing Gold Can Stay and was one that Claire and her friends were studying at school.

"I just hope this all helped jog someone's memory and they come forward with a key to solving this case."

Ch Supt Neil Jerome was a PC in the area at the time Claire was murdered. He said: "Claire's parents have gone to their graves not knowing who killed their daughter.

"There must be witnesses who haven't yet come forward."

Also on the walk were Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, local mayor Ann Allen, and Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes.

ON THE HUNT FOR THE KILLER

The death of Claire Tiltman and the hunt for her killer has remained a thorn in the side of Kent Police for two decades – but officers insist they will not give up.

In the years since the tragedy, more than 1,700 statements have been taken and 1,000 pieces of evidence probed. It remains hoped a breakthrough in forensics could still help bring the guilty party to justice.

Some seven suspects have been in the frame for the killing – including those convicted of some other high profile murders, such as Robert Napper, who was the killer of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common in July 1992 and also of Samanatha Bissett in November 1993.

Anyone with information is urged to call the incident room on 01634 884010 or contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

UNSOLVED: Claire Tiltman was killed in 1993

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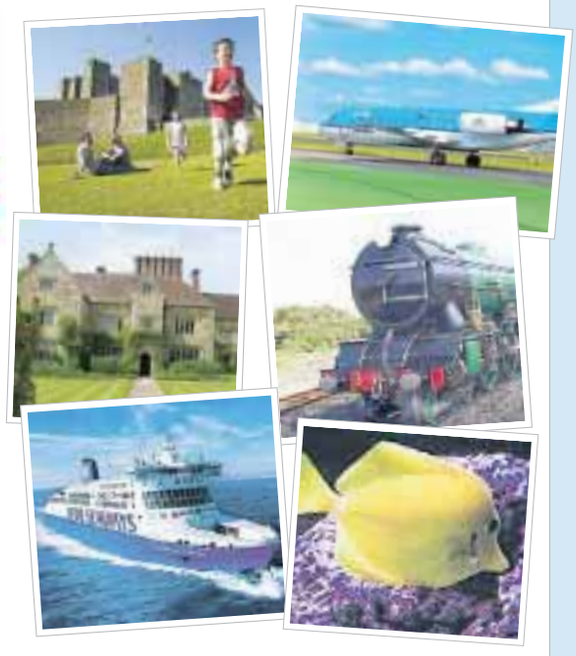

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrate the beauty of winter

THE World Photography Organisation (WPO) is calling on photographers to send in their best snaps from across the south east as part of a new contest to capture the essence of a British winter.

The My UK contest has a closing date of March 11 and photographers can enter up to three of their favourite winter shots for consideration.

A spokesman explained: "The competition asks the simple question – what does the great British winter look like to you?

"The judges are looking for the perfect snapshot to sum up this unique British season in all its glory – whether it is a photo of a frozen landscape, a delayed train or simply footprints in the snow."

One entry will be shortlisted for the south east to go head-to-head in a nationwide final featuring a total of 15 images.

Visit www.worldphoto.org to find out more and submit your photographs.

LEISURE

Support for ice rink proposal continues to grow

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 7,000 people have signed up to a campaign calling for an east Kent ice rink.

Currently the only rink for skating in the county is the Silver Blades Ice Rink in Gillingham.

But there are now plans afoot to build a rink in Thanet, with a view to it becoming a major tourism hotspot. The only stumbling block is finding someone willing to take the plunge and make the investment.

The campaign, launched by Broadstairs' resident Rachel Harvey, has already received the backing of business leaders, and a Facebook site has attracted thousands of supporters.

Ms Harvey, a consultant at an employment agency, said the benefits would be huge for the local population who otherwise have to make the long journey to Medway.

And she's confident a rink would bring considerable educational, commercial and health benefits.

She said: "I was watching Dancing on Ice on the TV and was angry there was nothing like this in Thanet.

"Three schools have promised to support the venture and I am sure it would attract visitors all year round.

"I am amazed at the response. It shows people want an ice rink in our area. It would even create some jobs too. I know money is tight, but it would be a great investment for someone."

It does have the tentative backing of the local chamber of commerce with chief executive David Foley saying: "We know tourism provides around 10 per cent of jobs in Thanet and over £200 million a year to the local economy. We are in discussion with a number of parties who have already expressed an interest.

"As our business advice clinics have shown, there is no shortage of entrepreneurial spirit in east Kent. A commercially successful ice rink would be a great addition to the tourism offer."

A spokesman for Thanet council admitted they didn't want to put the idea on ice, but added: "The authority is always happy to hear about realistic ideas for additional facilities and to know about support for these.

"However, the council is not looking to invest large amounts of money in such a scheme at present."

It's not something Silver Blades in Gillingham would consider either.

Tracie O'Sheen, the general manager at the rink, one of several run by the company, said: "We are unique here. I wouldn't think the company will be looking to expand to Thanet."

■ **Does east Kent need an ice rink? Share your views by writing to: The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or you can email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

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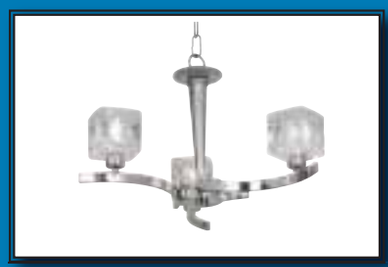

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OPINION

Balance the scales of justice

Prosecutors should have the same right to appeal as criminals if the justice system is to be truly fair, insits Dartford MP **Gareth Johnson**

ON Tuesday, I presented my Ten Minute Rule Bill (the Unduly Lenient Sentences (Right of Appeal) Bill) to the House.

The purpose of the bill is to allow the prosecution to refer any sentence received by a defendant for any case, in any court, for consideration for an appeal.

Currently, the prosecution is unable to appeal any sentence imposed at the magistrates court or youth court. It can appeal sentences imposed at the crown court, but only those for the most serious of offences. The defence, however, can apply to appeal any sentence, for any offence, in any court.

For example, in a youth court, magistrates have powers to sentence up to two years' youth detention and so can deal with more serious offences such as rape.

It is commonplace for sexual assaults to remain in the youth court. It is also commonplace for robberies, offences against children and supplying drugs to remain there.

Yet there is no power for the prosecution to appeal if an unduly lenient sentence is imposed in any of these cases.

What message does a lenient sentence send to the victim of crime when that victim is a child or young person? Or indeed to a young offender "who gets away lightly"?

If there is no recourse for the prosecution to appeal a lenient sentence given to a person in a youth court, what does it say to the victim about the fairness of the system; a system we want our children and young people to grow up to respect.

In addition, sentences cannot be appealed when given for the following offences; affray, violent disorder, theft, burglary (including dwellings), fraud, deception, assault (actual bodily harm), possession of drugs, witness intimidation, dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving, possession of a knife and possession of an offensive weapon.

Also sentences for offences in relation to the possession of and distribution of child pornography cannot currently be appealed by the prosecution.

The fact that the defence can appeal against any sentence imposed for these offences, yet the prosecution cannot, is simply not right and it inherently favours the rights of the offender over the rights of the victim.

It also allows the courts, when dealing with certain offences, to be as lenient as they like without redress, yet subject to appeal if they are robust. The system should exist to protect victims and their families, not penalise them.

It is the Attorney General's office that deals with referrals from prosecuting authorities (and often members of the public) over appeals. In 2010, despite a large number of requests they were unable to consider one such case for appeal. The case, where three males avoided prison sentences for the horrifically degrading group assault of a 17-year-old autistic boy could not be appealed because the convictions were for actual bodily harm, which is not in the list of offences open to prosecution appeal. This is an insult to victims of crime and quite clearly unjust.

This is an insult to victims of crime and clearly unjust

This is exactly why I presented my Ten Minute Rule Bill to the House of Commons.

This bill would level the playing field and mean that a victim had the same rights as a defendant. Surely that is what a balanced, fair, judicial system is all about?

■ **The bill has already gathered support from a number of MPs, including Canterbury's Julian Brazier and Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson.**

KOS COMMENT

Don't turn your back on our elderly population

EVERY winter, while most of us are getting excited about the prospect of snow, hundreds of elderly people in Kent are suffering in silence behind closed doors, hoping to just make it through the day.

In this day and age, the fact that around 1,000 older people die during the colder months in Kent is so shocking it could be unbelievable. But the tragedy is real; this is happening on our own doorstep, in the 21st century.

But we can help make a difference. Whether that's taking 10 minutes to knock on an elderly neighbour's door, or even popping in to make them a cup of tea and have a chat. We mustn't turn our backs on our elderly population; we can all help make a real difference.

No more pongs, please

KENT really bears the brunt when it comes to pungent smells.

Last summer we had the unpleasant stench of manure and now the French - 200-odd miles away – are infecting our nasal passages with leaking gas.

As the Garden of England, surely it's time we had something less offensive.

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Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter

North Downs Way at Shepherdswell by Kevin Mudge-Wood

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Train firms should help

HAVING just read your article on the saga of the Tunbridge Wells cinema (KOS, last week), it occurred to me that the issue from a development point of view is probably the hidden unknown charges in light of the train tunnel's proximity.

Given the train companies' disregard for their customers as a result of their fare hikes, it wouldn't surprise me that they would hit any developer hard should they cause their diabolical service to run any shabbier than it currently does, if services get disrupted.

Perhaps the mega profits the company are presumably making could go to develop some investment into the tunnel to avert any potential future building issues on the site? Or, just like the wrong type of snow on the tracks, is that too difficult to manage?

Tim McCabe, by email

Will we see an improvement?

I READ a good article in your paper regarding station improvements (KoS 13/01).

It only notes two stations in Kent; the remainder seem to be in London under Boris' fiefdom, and soon to be subject to his attempts to control.

By the way, all the platforms can take a ten-car train. How long will it take to build carriages for 12-car trains?

As so few trains on the main lines in Kent have run to their capability since the 1986 transfer to the Hastings line, will we still be standing room only on afternoon trains home for for the next 20 years?

Chris Hughes, Rainham

Come out for marriages

SINCE a conversation I once had with Thanet MP Laura Sandys, I have been fairly sure she will vote in favour of equal marriage.

This is why I was quite surprised to read in the local press, that she has decided not to make her position known until the last minute.

Could it be that she has changed her mind?

Other Kent MPs, like Canterbury's Julian Brazier, for example, who is known for his heterocentric attitude, have been quite vocal about the subject since day one.

As a progressive politician, I urge Laura Sandys to stay on the right side of history, by supporting full equality in civil marriage and civil partnership law, and to support the legalisation of same sex civil marriages, opposite sex civil partnerships and religious same sex marriages by clergy who wish to conduct them.

In addition, please ensure civil partnerships are retained for gay and straight couples who want an alternative to marriage, and that married transgender people, should not be required to divorce their spouse before they receive a gender recognition certificate.

Cllr John Worrow, Birchington

Warming is happening

RATHER modestly, for someone who regularly airs his views in the letters page of this newspaper, Terry Hudson claims no expertise (Letters, last week), but he continues in his defence to claim that he 'can read' and has the 'power of reason'.

However, by apparently concluding that 'global warming' has not happened, he clearly demonstrates that his reading has been selective and his reasoning is flawed.

That he continues by implying that concern about environmental change and the role of the motorcar is motivated by financial gain suggests his judgment is equally suspect.

The sums spent on environmental research are dwarfed by the money expended by 'big oil' and its friends, with its origins often deliberately obscured, to counter scientific findings.

The myth that there has been no warming for 16 years – to which Mr Hudson seems to be referring – has long since been exploded by scientists. A statistical examination of the figures is clear – the climate is warming.

Doubtless Mr Hudson will come back with superficially convincing figures cherry picked from the data, but be warned that the sources he relies upon have been very selective and have ignored clear warnings that their methodology is flawed.

One often neglected element in the evidence that our climate has warmed is the study of phenology – this, put simply, is a study of when flowers bloom and insects emerge.

The vast bulk of the data, collected over generations by unpaid enthusiasts, was obtained long before global warming was an issue. This data clearly shows evidence of warming in recent years and that, on average, spring in the UK now begins 11 days earlier than 30 years ago.

If Mr Hudson can find evidence of those who carried out this research enjoying 'lucrative careers', I would be very much surprised.

Hopefully, armed with my modest reading list and his self proclaimed ability to reason, Mr Hudson will reconsider his position,

John Cantelo, Canterbury

Europe union is good for us

BRITAIN has always stood and fought for our interests and principles in Europe.

We have been the driving force behind the single market, which created 3.5 million jobs and made the average British household £3,300 better off per year. We've also led the way on foreign policy and global trade, making Europe a force for peace and prosperity.

Finally, we have been at the forefront of efforts to establish police cooperation across Europe, protecting British citizens from organised criminals and terrorists.

This was not achieved through threatening our neighbours with blackmail, but through building alliances, winning the argument, and pushing for EU-wide reform.

David Cameron wants to hold EU members to ransom in a bid to repeal the social and employment laws which give us minimum standards for annual holidays, maternity leave and working hours.

Not only is there no way other EU countries will allow the UK to undercut the rest of Europe, but this clearly would not be in the interests of British citizens.

Instead, we need ambitious reform, cutting red tape for small businesses, expanding trade with emerging economies, and ensuring Europe remains competitive in the 21st century.

The best way to achieve this is by working with our European allies, not by alienating them.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

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Publisher: Simon Irwin
Editor: Chris Britcher
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
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KENT REMEMBERED

Beheaded king honoured with celebration of 17th century music and words

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THIS weekend a commemoration takes place of the last British monarch to be executed.

Tunbridge Wells is one of the few places in the country with a church dedicated to King Charles I.

And on Saturday and Sunday the town marks the anniversary of the king's gruesome death at the church of King Charles the Martyr; one of the town's most historic buildings.

King Charles I was beheaded in Whitehall on January 30, 1649, having been charged with high treason.

The death of the king followed the English Civil War which saw the Royalist forces – known as Cavaliers – pitted against the Roundheads of Oliver Cromwell and his Parliamentarian supporters.

The church was built in the years following the restoration of the monarchy, when Charles II returned to take the throne. It was dedicated to the dead king as a mark of respect.

A year before King Charles I's death, Kent saw a major battle between the opposing forces. The Kentish Royalists had 10,000 men in the field just outside Maidstone under the Earl of Norwich, who dispersed his forces to hold Rochester, Dover and Gravesend as well as the county town.

IN MEMORY: Etrusca will perform at the event to honour the beheaded King Charles I

But many were not trained soldiers and faced a veteran force under Sir Thomas Fairfax, an excellent military commander. His troops crossed the River Medway and attacked Maidstone in the face of a terrible downpour of rain.

The Roundheads took streets in fierce hand-to-hand fighting before the present day Gabriel's Hill saw the last stand during a massive thunderstorm.

The battle was a key part of the final months of the conflict which ended in victory for Parliament – and its Puritans who frowned on most forms of music and entertainment.

At the start of the 17th century, the waters at Tunbridge Wells were becoming popular with visitors who wanted to improve their health.

But the victors of the conflict took a dim view to such frivolous activity – hence Tunbridge Wells' celebration of the return of the Stuart royal dynasty.

This year's King Charles Festival weekend, (January 26-27) provides the opportunity to explore both the literature and music of the 17th century, with the annual public lecture and a Sunday afternoon concert.

Comfortable Words: A Lecture on the Language of the Book of Common Prayer will take place at the church on Saturday, at 2.30pm in London Road. It will be conducted by Dr Helen Wilcox, professor of English at Bangor University.

Following the recent 350th anniversary of the prayerbook's first publication in 1662, she will be exploring the rich history, language and legacy of this influential book, highlighting its literary qualities, and exploring its presence in literature and wider culture. It was widely used at the time of King Charles' death. Entry is free, and an original 1662 edition of the book will be on show.

Sunday will see a musical event called Wed Your Divine Sounds; featuring lute renditions of songs from the period at the same venue, starting at 3pm. The programme features Giovanni Carissimi's passionate cantata The Lament of Mary Stuart. The concert is presented by Etrusca: Alessandra Testai, soprano, and Robin Jeffrey, lutes. Tickets are £12, or £10 in advance.

To book email kcmconcerts@blueyonder.co.uk or alternatively visit Hall's bookshop.

Studying stand-up? Really, it's not a joke!

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Adam takes to the streets for Mini challenge

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THE INTERVIEW

Chatback Comedy

The funny plan is still on course

Joe Bill learns about the duo who put their studies in stand-up to good use

IT has been on the end of both curt criticism and the odd disapproving tut in the past, but University of Kent's stand-up comedy teaching module is having the last laugh.

Two graduates of the drama and theatre studies course are looking to take the comedy world by storm, having bagged an Edinburgh star for their third anniversary special.

Sam Gardner, who studied the MA stand-up comedy module, and Lucy Danser, who studied the creative producing for theatre module, run an up-and-coming comedy club out of The Parrot pub in Canterbury.

The pair will celebrate their third year in charge of Chatback Comedy this month after going full circle and securing a performance from Norwegian comedian Daniel Simonsen.

The performer, who won the Best Newcomer Award at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival, also happens to be the headliner from the very first Chatback Comedy show back in 2010.

Lucy, 25, said: "Myself and Sam were housemates at university and I'd always loved and been involved with the stand-up comedy scene in London and at the Edinburgh Festival.

"Sam was offered the opportunity to hold a one-off comedy night at The Parrot, where he worked, so we decided we'd pool our skills and knowledge and do it together.

"It was a great success, completely sold out and we even had to turn people away.

"The Parrot agreed we could hold it as a regular monthly event and we've been doing so for three years. The pub has actually changed hands twice in that time, but we've stayed."

The pair were schooled by Kent tutor Dr Oliver Double, himself a former stand-up and a prolific comedy-writer, and it was his course that inspired the pair to create the club.

"We opened the club because, despite the fact there was the country's only stand-up comedy course right here in Canterbury, there was nowhere these acts could go and perform alongside [professional] acts working the circuit, on the next level up from them.

"They could go to see big names in London and there was their own [student] night Monkeyshine run by Dr Double, but nothing in the middle, so we opened Chatback."

APPEALING: Lucy Danser and Sam Gardner have attracted the likes of Daniel Simonsen to the club

Lucy and Sam have managed to mix students with professional stand-up comedians at their nights by bringing in a few big names but also allowing open-mic slots for local comics or comedy students to get a five-minute set.

"It's been great for new acts to meet professional comedians, to get tips and feedback on their material and experience performing in a different style of club.

"We have a very loyal audience and we've seen it grow and change over the years. Early on we had a lot more friends and students. Nowadays we have people from all over and from Canterbury, which is wonderful."

Chatback has attracted the likes of TV regular Milton Jones, Britain's Got Talent star Kev Orkian and the face of Viva TV, Eric Lampaert.

"We're based on the London-style comedy club. The atmosphere is buzzy, the acts are new, exciting and often on the cusp of becoming more widely known on television shows.

"The comedians mingle with the audience and there is always a friendly, chatty, happy feel. The Parrot is unique and comedians love to play gigs there because it's so friendly."

Lucy, who is also a trained actress, believes the Canterbury comedy scene has improved dramatically since they started on Chatback.

"The Parrot is our resident club, but over the years we've held gigs in Whitstable, on the UKC campus and further afield. We've definitely noticed a big surge in comedy in Canterbury over the past few years. Many pubs have begun holding open-mic nights, too, which is great because there are lots more places to try out material for new comics."

Chatback has also gone into the Gulbenkian theatre on the university campus to put on children's comedy shows and workshops.

Changes are afoot for the young Chatback team, with one half of the duo looking to follow in the footsteps of his famous comedy tutor.

"At the end of this current season Sam will be leaving the company to train to become an English and drama teacher," said Lucy.

"We haven't ruled out him returning after he's finished and is super-qualified, but for the next couple of years I'll be running the company along with some of the existing members of the team."

And the crew have a few ideas of their own.

"Our plans are to continue The Parrot gigs and the kids' comedy at the Gulbenkian but to also open a club in London and to tour with our new format show Stand Up & Slam! – a fusion between performance poetry and stand-up comedy. It's awesome!

"There are a couple more ideas still under wraps, but we have big plans."

• **Visit www.chatbackcomedy.com for information on forthcoming shows.**

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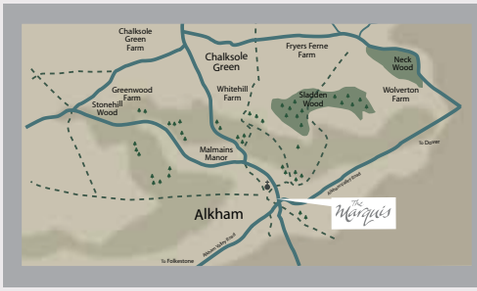

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YOUR WEEKEND

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To be included on this page, please email features@kosmedia.co.uk

Your grand chance

MUSICIANS will get the chance to take their seat at a grand piano formerly used by the likes of Take That and Adele.

The Gibson Guitar Corporation, based in Nashville, Tennessee, has loaned the Hythe Imperial Hotel the beautiful 9ft Baldwin concert grand piano to help support local talent.

The piano marks a campaign that will include a series of Hythe Imperial events throughout the year featuring a range of special guests.

The Baldwin piano was formerly located at Sphere Studios in London, whose client list artists such as Adele, Il Divo, Muse, Queen, Duran Duran, Take That and Thin Lizzy.

The Hythe Imperial is inviting any local talent who would like to play the piano during Sunday lunchtimes or on select evenings to email Emma Betteridge at h6862-sl@accor.com.

Good show, Eastwell!

EASTWELL Manor is hosting a production of Our Country's Good, directed by Max Stafford Clark, before the show opens in London. Prices range from £20-£35 and there is the chance to share tea with the director and cast. For more details and to reserve a place, phone 01233 213020 or email reservations@eastwellmanor.co.uk.

Tribute to the King of Pop will be a thriller

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

MICHAEL Jackson is remembered as one of the most influential artists of all time. His career spanned four decades and he was continually at the forefront of popular music.

Now the King of Pop's best work is remembered through Jackson Live In Concert by the long-time fan and talented performer known only as Ben.

The show, which comes to Margate's Winter Gardens, looks to re-create the Michael Jackson experience with a rendition of all his favourite songs.

Ben said: "From as far into my childhood as I can remember, I have been obsessed with Michael Jackson. Everything about the King of Pop mesmerised and enchanted me.

"I used to spend hours poring over album covers, photographs, interviews, videos and anything I could find that was about Michael.

"Even my 17th birthday party was Michael Jackson-themed. I always loved to dance and began copying Michael's signature moves as I dreamt of being a performer just like him."

Ben's portrayal of Jackson has been described as "the most vocally and visually accurate tribute to the King of Pop to have ever toured UK theatres".

The performer is joined on the stage by his live band and dancers who work their way through all of MJ's hits, including Thriller, Beat It and Billie Jean.

From his online campaign it is clear to see Ben's got the look, the moonwalk and the voice, not to mention the costume and signature dance moves.

Jackson Live In Concert comes to the Winter Gardens in Margate on Friday, February 15. Tickets are priced at £18 for adults and £14 for children.

Phone the box office on 01843 292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk for more information.

Mule never guess new Carmen star

THE opera Carmen has been graced with classical theatre stars from across the globe for more than 100 years.

But now the show is ready to welcome a new addition to the cast – Violet the donkey.

Director Ellen Kent has brought Violet into the touring production to tread the boards alongside Moldovan National Philharmonic Orchestra when it comes to Dartford's Orchard theatre in February.

The award-winning opera-producer spent her teenage years in Spain and has a rich store of experiences to draw on as she brings in the donkey from its home in Crawley.

Violet, a 10hh (hands high) light grey, is no stranger to the limelight, having appeared in Nativity and Palm Sunday parades.

A collection on the night will raise money for the Donkey Breed Society, with a different donkey used in every tour location.

Tickets cost £25.50-£33.50; visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone 01322 220000 for further details.

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EATING **OUT**

Across the county

A cosy night in front of a roaring Red Lion fire

ON the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect picture-postcard image.

Located in picturesque Hernhill, the warm atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.

With log-fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone.

In the garden there is an enclosed children's play area, as well as a sunny front patio on which to sit and enjoy a meal or cool drink. There is a wide selection of real ales at the bar and the pub is renowned for holding real-ale festivals on the village green.

Book now for Valentine's Day from Tuesday to Thursday, February 12-14.

Enjoy a three-course meal and coffee with sweet nibbles for £24.95 per head. Performing during the evening of Saturday, February 13, will be Cultured Pearl, a two-piece acoustic group. The Red Lion offers a choice of meals from the à la carte menu.

Food is served Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm.

■ **The Red Lion free house, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, website www.theredlion.org)**

PICTURESQUE: Red Lion in the village of Hernhill

CHEF RECOMMENDS

THE DRUM INN: 01303 812125
www.thedruminn.com
Starter: Freshly-made Brie fritters and cranberry sauce.
Main: Home-made steak-and-ale pie with short-crust pastry.
THE RED LION: 01227 751207
www.theredlion.org
Starter: Red Lion prawn and smoked-salmon salad.
Main: Tender shin of beef slowly braised in cream stout with mash and seasonal vegetables.
Dessert: Platter of biscuits with local cheese from Canterbury Cheesemakers.
THE WALNUT TREE: 01233 720298
www.walnuttree.com
Starter: King prawn cocktail.
Main: Locally-sourced rump steak on a grillstone as a main.
Dessert: Delicious Ferrero Rocher cheesecake.
HYTHE BRASSERIE: 01303 267912
www.hythebrasserie.com
Starter: Tempura battered monkfish with hot'n'sour dip.
Main: Oregano rump of lamb with spiced aubergine
Dessert: Rich chocolate mocha pot with pistachio cookies

DATING BACK: The Walnut Tree Inn was once called The Old Smuggler's Inn

Discovering the past sets up future for The Walnut Tree

THE Walnut Tree Inn at Aldington dates back hundreds of years to about 1377, having been built during the reign of Richard II and was formerly known as The Old Smuggler's Inn.

The team at the traditonal pub has spent January refurbishing the bar to bring back some of the delightful and historic features.

The snug bar has been stripped back to its orginal features, revealing the beautiful old oak ship beams with the cork still inside them.

Take a stroll in the picturesque village, or just head down to The Walnut for a drink and something to eat.

There is a lunchtime special menu offering affordable dishes for all. The lunch deal incorporates a choice of starters at £1.75 each, main course for £3.75 and a dessert for £1.75.

There is also the incredibly popular Sunday roast offering three different-size portions starting at £6.75.

There is a brand-new evening menu due to be launched at The Walnut Tree featuring traditional Kentish fare and food straight from the sizzling grillstone. There is also a number of exciting events coming up in 2013.

One of those is the ladies-only lunch club. Members will start with an elegant starter, a delicious main course and a home-made dessert with coffee for just £10 per person.

The team also has a full menu available for Valentine's Day, plus a select special menu for couples looking for a romantic evening. The team is also taking bookings for Mother's Day on Sunday, March 10.

Proprietor Karen Barrett said: "After being landlady for 12 years at The Walnut Tree I feel we definitely have something to offer everyone with our fine ales, good food and a family friendly atmosphere."

Watch out for the grillstone menu, which features your food served on volcanic granite stone. The fillet steak with chips and salad is a must at £19.95.

An example menu can include a starter of crackerjack battered prawns served with a Thai chilli sauce.

For mains, you can try the Kentish Favourite Korker sausages with sage-and-onion mash, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and gravy.

■ **The Walnut Tree Inn Forge Hill, Aldington, near Ashford (phone 01233 720298, website www.walnuttree.com)**

Romantic riverside meal at Fisherman's Wharf

THE Ash family took over the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant in Sandwich 15 years ago and the eatery has gone from strength to strength.

It is situated next to the old toll bridge in the delightful ancient town of Sandwich, where diners have a super, picturesque view of the entrancing River Stour. The favourable position is emphasised by three dining areas, including a flower-filled courtyard and upstairs area overlooking the waterside.

There is a choice of dishes ranging from à la carte to tasty snacks and sandwiches. You can choose from a large selection of meat and fish dishes, while there is a senior citizens' menu, as well as a great set menu and children's menu.

Themed nights are organised throughout the year and make for a superb evening out.

For all the romantics out there, a Valentine's Day meal overlooking the river could be the perfect way to spend time with your loved one.

There is a superb-value three-course menu for just £19.95 available from Thursday to Sunday, February 14-16.

Couples can celebrate with a bottle of the house champagne set at only £23.95. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Watch out for the creamy seafood chowder with herb croutons and herb oil to start. For a main course, try the pan-fried halibut steak, served with crushed new potatoes and a tomato basil concasse.

■ **Fisherman's Wharf, The Quay Sandwich CT13 9RU (phone 01304 613636, email Fishwharf36@aol.com)**

DELIGHT: Fisherman's Wharf near old toll bridge

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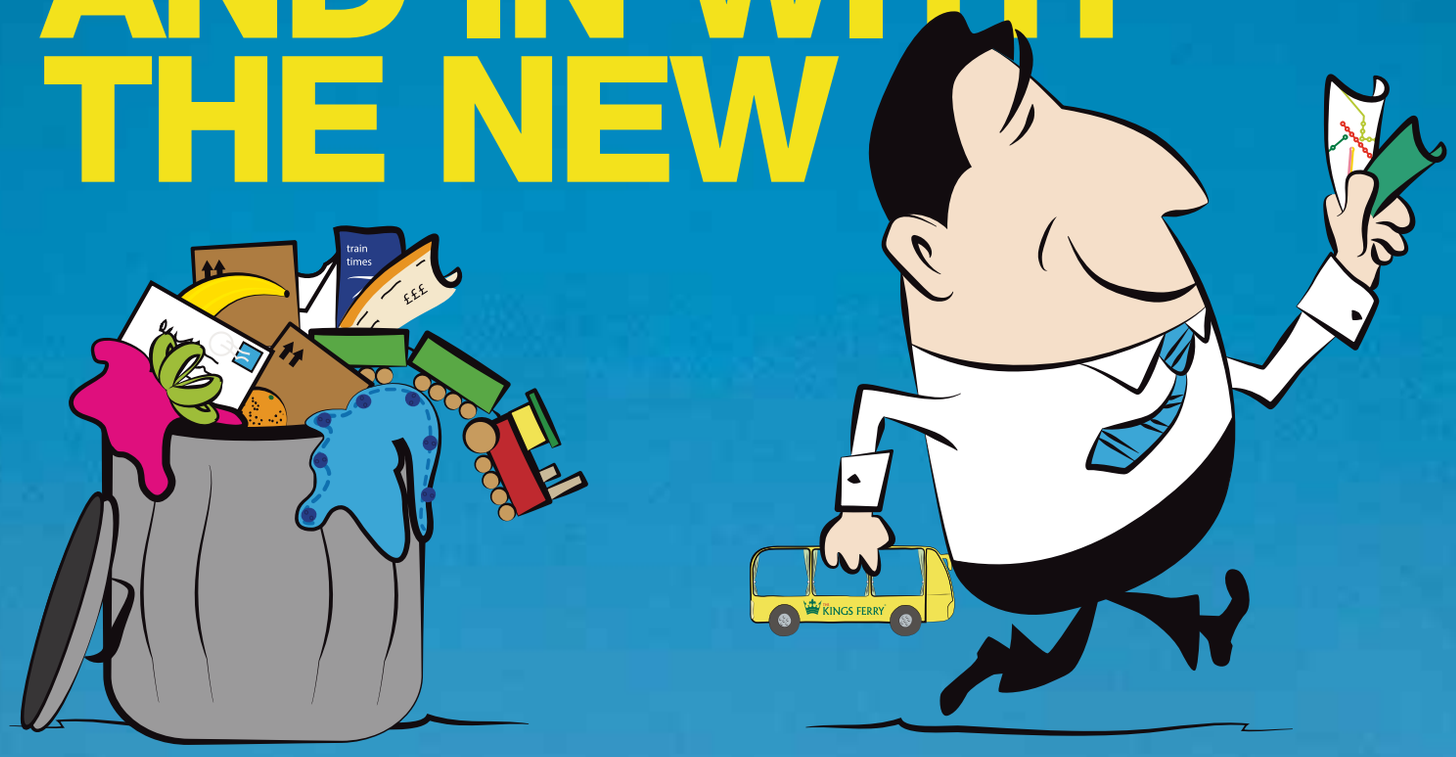

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YOUR WEEKEND

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Any Questions? in town

BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? is coming to Medway this spring.

The current-affairs programme, which is presented by Jonathan Dimbleby, is broadcast live on Friday evenings just after 8pm.

The show will be hosted at the St George's Centre, Chatham Maritime, with doors opening from 6.30pm on Friday, March 29.

The radio show is run on TV's Question Time format, with audience members asking questions of a panel on national and international issues of the day.

The event will be ticket-only and Medway Council will be arranging the allocation and distribution of tickets; email communications@medway.gov.uk to find out more.

Artist carves out a show

KINGS HILL is hosting an exhibition featuring the work of one of the country's most highly-regarded artists.

The exhibition, which is in five of the office buildings on the business park near West Malling, features a series of wood-carved sculptures by Robert Koenig.

His work is inspired by his Polish heritage and he is noted for his greater-than-lifesize sculptures, many of which have been on display in galleries such as the RIBA Sculpture Court and The Serpentine Gallery.

The exhibition is part of a programme organised by Liberty Property Trust UK.

Also on show is a range of work by other established and up-and-coming artists.

The artworks are available to buy. The exhibition runs until the end of January.

Museum invites you to get involved in the past

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

HISTORY fans will be able to mingle with the county's top heritage buffs as Quex Park hosts a Link To The Past event.

On Sunday, February 10, the best of Kent's dedicated historical groups will celebrate at the Powell-Cotton Museum in Birchington with the Trust For Thanet Archaeology.

More than 15 organisations will showcase their activities coming up in 2013, including the likes of Birchington Heritage Trust, Dover Archaeology Group, The Friends of Margate Caves, University of Kent Archaeology And Classics, Maidstone Area Archaeology Group, Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group and The Friends of Quex.

The event will also mark the start of the Quex Memory Tree, where people with stories or photographs of personal links to Quex Park or the Powell-Cotton Museum are encouraged to share their tales. These can be either brought along on the day or provided by contacting the museum in advance.

TIMELESS: Quex Park is bringing together a range of history groups

The day will include a programme of talks by guest speakers from The Kent Underground Research Group, Thanet Archaeology, Kent Family History Society and the Powell-Cotton Museum.

There will also be access to the museum, children's activities and tearooms, with something for everyone looking for a link to the past.

Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and free for under-16s.

For details, you can visit www.quexmuseum.org, email enquiries@quexmuseum.org or phone 01843 842168.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Sat and Sun, Feb 23-24, at 7.30pm
Box office: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
Hairy Bikers: See the chefs with their new show Larger Than Live. Audience members can enjoy a slap-up meal on stage with tales of culinary catastrophe. Tickets £25.

Winter Gardens, Margate
Sunday, February 17
Box office: 01843 296111
Website: www.margatewintergardens.co.uk
Chinese State Circus: The tumblers are in town. Now featuring the formidable Shaolin Master known only as The One, there are death-defying acrobats and feats of strength. Ticket prices vary.

Hever Castle, Edenbridge
Saturday, February 16, onwards
Box office: 01732 861224
Website: www.hevercastle.co.uk
Upstairs Downstairs exhibition: Celebrate the 110-year anniversary of the American multi-millionaire William Waldorf Astor buying romantic Hever Castle. Entry prices vary.

Astor Community Theatre, Deal
Monday, February 4, at 7.30pm
Box office: 01304 370220
Website: www.theastor.org
Open Mic Night: Musicians who wish to perform are asked to come along at the beginning of the event to book in a slot or pre-book by email at openmic@theastor.co.uk. Entry is free.

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- Return coastal train Nice to Monaco
- Entry to Top Marques Monaco worth £40
- All transfers abroad

The Grand Burstin Hotel Scarborough overlooks Folkestone Harbour

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Hotel	Start date	Nights	Price pp
Grand Burstin Hotel Folkestone	1, 8, 15, 22 February	3	£89
	1, 8, 15, 22 March	3	£99
	4, 11, 25 March	4	£119

The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. The Grand is renowned as one of UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof.

Cabaret Shows are performed in the Ocean bar every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages!

The hotel also runs regular daytrips to France which are bookable at the hotel.

The Spindles Health Club & Gym has an indoor heated Swimming pool and sauna, as well as a state of the art gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

All bedrooms are en-suite with TV, hairdryer and tea/coffee-making facilities.

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Friday 28 June, 2013

We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips - a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band. The party takes place at Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village, located on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more.

The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

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Eurotunnel enjoys record revenue in Olympics year

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EUROTUNNEL has released figures showing it enjoyed a record financial return in 2012 – a year that also saw the 300 millionth passenger cross to Europe using the Anglo-French fixed link.

The latest results show the company recording an increase in financial returns for 2012 over the previous 12 months of 14 per cent – making an overall earned revenue of £834.5 million.

However, figures for actual profits are not yet available as operating costs will not be calculated until March.

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive of parent company Groupe Eurotunnel SA, is understandably upbeat.

"Groupe Eurotunnel has had a record year," he said. "The group has reaffirmed its ability to move forward by getting the best from the infrastructure and operations it manages."

Spokesman John Keefe added: "It's nice to see something going in the right direction in this general economic climate."

The Le Shuttle service was the main contributor to revenue, bringing in £401m and registering a market share of just over 43 per cent. Eurotunnel says its rail services have never carried so many trucks as in 2012, transporting a total of 1,464,880 – beating the previous record set in 2007.

POPULARITY: Eurotunnel transported its 300 millionth passenger earlier this year

Passenger traffic has also grown – up 7 per cent for cars and 5 per cent for coaches – and the numbers carried approached 2.5 million vehicles, with the London Olympics and Queen's Jubilee big factors in this increase.

The three ferries acquired from SeaFrance started operations at the end of summer, but next month will see a greater number of crossings. The company says this will add to revenue for 2013.

The high-speed services operated by Eurostar from St Pancras via Ebbsfleet and Ashford also saw an increase of 2 per cent in passenger numbers, up to 9.9m.

In its January report, which contained the figures, the company stated: "The advantages of the Tunnel – that is to say speed, reliability and respect for the environment – are appreciated by customers.

"This is demonstrated by the number of people transported: the symbolic bar of 300m passengers travelling through the Channel Tunnel since its construction was reached in October 2012, of which approximately 20m travelled in 2012.

"Overall, although the economic crisis is not yet over and competition remains strong in the cross-Channel market, customers continue to demonstrate strong loyalty to the Eurotunnel system.

"The high frequency of departures, the short journey time, the levels of punctuality and minimal impact on the environment encourage industrial and individual customers to turn to Eurotunnel, whose business model and the capacity of whose staff to adapt to the increases in traffic should be recognised."

Small drop in jobless total

THE jobless total across the county fell in the three months to November by 324 and now stands at 34,402.

Medway was one of the top-performing areas in the South as its number of people out of work fell by 153 to 6,655. For the remainder of the county the number fell by 171 to 27,747

Across Kent a drop in the jobless total was recorded in eight districts (including Medway), while an upsurge was noted in four.

Falls were recorded in Maidstone (down 125 to 2,347) and Tonbridge and Malling (down 80 to 1,434), but there were increases in Dover (up 121 to 2,625) and Shepway, up 70 to 2,730

Roger House, of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "Although it is good news that long-term unemployment is falling, a growing number of these people have gone on to Government-supported training and jobs programmes and are no longer classed as unemployed in the figures."

More opportunities in burgers

OPPORTUNITIES: A representative of McDonald's talks to school pupils about their future careers

FAST-FOOD chain McDonald's is to create 65 new jobs across the county this year.

The drive is part of a nationwide commitment to create 2,500 new positions across the UK by the end of the year.

New employees will also be able to obtain qualifications.

The jobs will be in existing outlets – the company does not plan to open any new Kent restaurants. Instead there will be "more people on the floor" to serve customers.

Franchisee Paul Crocker, who owns 10 restaurants in the county, said: "In 2012 we added some fantastic crew from the community to our team, many of whom were starting out in their first job.

"As a local employer, I believe it's important for all those who can to continue giving young people in particular the chance to get workplace experience."

Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, said: "A highly-skilled workforce is an important part of any growing business. That's why I am pleased to see how McDonald's is providing training and apprenticeships in a range of skills."

McDonald's offers all its employees access to nationally-recognised qualifications.

Employees have the opportunity to gain a range of qualifications from adult certificates in maths and English to apprenticeships. A foundation degree is also offered to restaurant managers.

MUSIC CHAIN

Hope for HMV as debt is sold

JOBS at music chain HMV could be saved as restructuring specialist Hilco has taken effective control of the music- and DVD-retailer.

Hilco, which already owns HMV Canada, has bought the debt of the chain, which employs some 150 people in Kent, from lenders Lloyds and Royal Bank of Scotland.

The deal means that at least some of HMV's stores in Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Folkestone, Tunbridge Wells, Bluewater and Westwood Cross should stay open.

HMV's estimated debt was about £176 million, but Hilco is believed to have paid much less than this to acquire it because the retail chain is in administration.

The company stated: "Hilco UK confirms it has acquired HMV's debt from the group's lenders. It has not bought the business itself.

"Hilco believes there to be a viable underlying HMV business and will now be working closely with Deloitte who, as administrators, are reviewing the business to determine future options."

CONTEST

Search for the top decorator

THE hunt for the Dulux Decorator Centres' Apprentice of the Year 2013 starts at North West Kent College, where last year's winner Aron Baker, above, studies.

Young painters and decorators have until Friday, February 22, to enter the competition, which is open to apprentices and full-time painting and decorating students aged 17-24 on a recognised course and studying an NVQ or SVQ level two or three.

To enter, visit www.duluxdecoratorcentre.co.uk, see www.facebook.com/DuluxDecoratorCentres or @DuluxDecCentre on Twitter.

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Regional Growth Fund: it's time to bid in the next round of loans

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES are being urged to bid for Government cash loans as a new round of the Regional Growth Fund has just opened.

Business Minister Michael Fallon encouraged firms to apply for some of the £350 million on offer while on a visit to the manufacturer H V Wooding, in Hythe, which obtained £1.1m via the Expansion East Kent programme.

The family-run precision engineering business, which worked on the Olympic Village construction and is supplying components to the latest Royal Navy aircraft-carriers, used the cash to expand operations.

Fallon was on a visit to see how the money was being spent at a company that is also involved in medical technology, renewable energies and Formula One.

He said: "The Regional Growth Fund is playing a pivotal role in supporting business and enterprise. Jobs are being created, money is being invested and the fund is making a difference. This additional round and the improved processes we have put in place will help keep the momentum going.

"Take H V Wooding, where our support is releasing private investment, giving them the confidence to invest, hire and grow. I want more companies to come forward and apply to round four of the fund or look out for similar opportunities through their local enterprise partnership."

Harry Wooding, who founded the business, said: "We could have gone to the bank and received finance, but an interest-free loan is obviously more attractive. I estimate it will save us £135,000 on interest payments."

Operations director John Wooding said the cash had helped expansion plans for the company, which is now exporting to foreign markets, notably India, Malaysia and France.

Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, confirmed that the Regional Growth Fund was progressing well, with 180 projects having started (89 per cent of those to have been awarded grants).

Projects from the first three rounds have pledged to create or safeguard a total of 500,000 jobs along with an injection of £13 billion private-sector investment into the economy.

Clegg said: "The Regional Growth Fund is already proving a shrewd investment by providing a welcome boost to jobs and growth across the country, with thousands of jobs created and businesses expanding into new markets and manufacturing new products.

"With this next round of funding, I urge England's budding businesses to produce top-quality bids to access money that can help them grow.

"There'll be stiff competition, and we can only invest in those projects that will lead to sustainable jobs and the best value for money. Boosting jobs and growth is our No 1 priority for Britain right now. That is why I am so pleased to be opening a fourth round of the fund."

Round Four of the Regional Growth Fund closes to applications at noon on Wednesday, March 20; bids will be appraised as quickly as possible.

EXPANDING: MP Michael Fallon meets John Wooding during his recent visit to H V Wooding in Hythe

Beijing, Dubai, Rio de Janeiro... all are in reach at reduced prices from Manston

DISCOUNTED travel to some of the world's most important business destinations is being offered from Manston via Amsterdam as part of an introductory offer from airline KLM.

With the imminent arrival of twice-daily flights to Schiphol airport, international business travellers can now book flights and connect to many of the 190 destinations served by the Dutch carrier at special introductory prices.

KLM has unveiled a list of its promotional destinations, including emerging economies in South America and Asia, as well as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai and Qatar.

Business passengers looking to build specific trade links with China can also benefit from the KLM promotion.

The airline is offering return flights to Beijing from £472; Hangzhou from £518, Shuangliu from £553 and Xiamen from £543 for flights taken from the start of the Manston service on April 2.

Return flights from Manston to Dubai, via Schiphol, are on offer from £346 and Hong Kong from £513, while the 12,200-mile round trip to Rio de Janeiro is available from £507. The promotional fares are on offer for flights until Saturday, June 15, if booked by Thursday, January 31, and subject to terms and conditions.

They compare with scheduled airline prices of about £520 to Beijing, £690 to Rio and £650 to Hong Kong.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston Airport, said: "Manston offers a highly attractive 30-minute check-in time, which, combined with hassle-free parking right outside the terminal, will save hours compared to European flights from Heathrow, and even more when travelling long-haul.

"Allowing for time spent to relax in the award-winning Schiphol airport, which offers a great passenger experience, Manston is a very time-effective alternative to other South East airports.

"These prices and our service make Manston a really competitive alternative to fighting your way through the larger airports."

NEW ROUTE: Manston-to-Amsterdam flights begin at the start of April

ARMED FORCES

More support needed for employers of reservists

A NEW survey shows that small businesses are failing to hire reservists from the army, navy and air force.

The Federation of Small Businesses believes a lack of support and investment is to blame and that SMEs need more Government backing to encourage recruitment.

The group said better communication from Government was key for small firms to employ a reservist – 89 per cent of respondents to an FSB snap poll said they hadn't heard of the Ministry of Defence's Employer Awareness Events, which promote opportunities from reserve service personnel.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "At the end of 2012 the Government said it would work with employers of reservists and give them more notice before their staff are deployed.

"There is an appetite among some small businesses to hire a reservist in the future, but there are clear areas the Government must address. Putting the needs of the smallest firms at the heart of reforms would be a good start.

"The FSB has long said that the smallest firms may find it more difficult to be supportive of employing a reservist, especially as each employee makes such a large proportion of a workforce.

"Better communication, information and support that are tailored to the needs of small firms are a must if they are to consider taking one on.

"While small firms are flexible by the nature of their size, they feel more help to recruit a replacement would be beneficial."

HOLIDAYS

Partnership opens up continent for travel

COACH company Buzzlines has introduced luxury continental touring holidays to its 2013 programme thanks to a road-rail travel alliance with Eurostar.

Each European excursions includes return Eurostar journeys between London and Paris, Lille or Brussels, with onward travel aboard Lympne-based Buzzlines's new Eurostar Connection coach.

The programme features summer vacations to scenic destinations across France and beyond, including Rheims and the Champagne region, Auxerre, the Loire valley, the Costa Brava and eastern Pyrenees.

There is also a seven-day classical music-orientated tour of Germany, which culminates in Berlin for an open-air performance by the Berlin Philharmoniker.

Adrian Gilson, managing director at Buzzlines, said: "This exciting new programme will take holidaymakers to the less well-visited parts of France and beyond. We have purposely kept the amount of daily travel to a minimum, allowing our guests plenty of time to savour the places we visit and relax."

Training, courses and careers

Frier fresh for K College

K COLLEGE has unveiled the interim principal it hopes will help turn its fortunes around.

The college, which has sites in Ashford, Folkestone, Dover, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, suffered huge financial losses last year, with an operating deficit of £6.4m in that year alone. However the total losses for the year were closer to £16m.

Now Phil Frier has been drafted in – replacing Bill Fearon who left at Christmas.

Principal search is on

MIDKENT College is on the hunt for a new principal following changes to the structure of the organisation's senior leadership.

Stephen Grix will relinquish the position he has held since 2005 at the end of the current academic year, but will continue as chief executive on a part-time basis.

His successor will then be supported into taking over as principal and chief executive when the two roles are merged back together in 2015.

Campus open evenings

BROMLEY College will be hosting open events at its campuses in Bromley and Orpington next month.

It hopes they will showcase the facilities and range of courses on offer, with visitors given a tour of the facilities, careers advice, and the chance to meet staff and students.

The event at the Bromley campus is on February 7, from 5.30-7.30pm. And the same time at the Orpington site on February 27.

Grant to fund apprenticeships given extension and increase

FIRMS looking to offer apprenticeships in the county have been given a boost after the Government confirmed an extension to a grant package.

The Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) provides a £1,500 cash injection to help small and medium businesses with less than 1,000 staff take on an apprentice.

The scheme is open to recruit apprentices aged between 16 and 24.

Initially only on offer during the 2012/13 financial year, the funding has been extended following a positive response from employers.

It has also been increased in size, so eligible employers can claim the grant for up to ten apprentices.

Business secretary, Vince Cable said: "I know it can be a big decision for busy, small companies to take on an apprentice.

"Employers may be concerned about the time recruitment and training will take, and anxious about how it will work. So the £1,500 grant is a token to acknowledge this and thank employers. I hope many more people will take us up on our cash incentive to grow their business, and train up the workforce of the future."

The announcement is timed with the start of a new nationwide radio advertising campaign to encourage more employers to take on an apprentice and to highlight the availability of the AGE grant.

David Way, chief executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, said: "Apprenticeships come with a guarantee of quality, giving young people a job with training, and are proven to deliver a significant return on investment, so this really is a win-win initiative for employers."

FUTURE: Business secretary Vince Cable is convinced apprentices are the way forward

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

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Online scheme to switch on a future generation to business

AFTER recent research demonstrated a lack of confidence from business leaders in youngsters emerging from school - coupled with predictions youth unemployment will exceed one million again this year - a new work experience initiative is being rolled out.

The Financial Skills Partnership (FSP) aims to deploy technology to reach out to school and college students in Kent and allow them to tap into the financial and professional services sectors.

Youngsters aged from 16-19 taking part in the programme, which begins on April 1, will undertake "online immersive learning modules, delivered through an interactive platform, at the same time as having access to industry professionals who they can have online conversations with about careers and working in the sector".

Prior to the start of the GetInGetOn programme, the FSP needs 300 people working in the financial and professional services industries to sign up to act as e-career mentors to participate for just seven hours volunteering over one calendar month.

It follows research by the Federation of Small Businesses, which shows 77 per cent of small business owners surveyed believe school leavers' business awareness is poor, and 81 per cent are 'not very' or 'not at all confident' that students leaving school at 16 have the right level of employability skills.

Contact Jenny Barber, head of education and careers, at jenny.barber@financialskillspartnership.org.uk to sign up as an e-mentor.

Getting the right shot for a TV career

A UNIVERSITY student from Biggin Hill is getting a taste of life behind the lens filming for Sky Sports at a host of football grounds.

Andrew Cochrane, 22, is employed filming the likes of former football players-turned-presenters including Tony Cottee and Alan McInally as they give match updates to Sky Sports' Saturday afternoon Soccer Saturday programme.

The ambitious student, who is studying for a degree in film and TV production at Buckinghamshire New University, in High Wycombe, gained the opportunity with Sky Sports through connections made filming at Watford Football Club, in Hertfordshire, as part of his degree course.

BEHIND THE LENS: Student Andrew Cochrane

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More cash available if would-be borrowers have the confidence

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

WHEN compared with many other parts of the UK, property prices in Kent have been largely resilient in recent years.

Even a double-dip recession, chaos in the Eurozone and a faltering UK economy did not create the massive fall that had been predicted for 2012. And a year on from the doom and gloom that was prevalent across the market, things are looking up.

The Bank of England's latest look at the economy says more money for home loans is becoming available and at more competitive rates.

Analysts always predicted it would take time for the Government's Funding for Lending Scheme, which offers lenders access to cheaper borrowing provided they pass the benefits on to their customers, to work properly after its introduction in August 2012.

It is now taking effect and in a way that can only be positive to moving on sales.

The availability of finance has been a big factor in the stagnant residential property market for the past two years, so it should be easier in 2013 for borrowers to get a mortgage.

The Credit Conditions Survey, by analysts from London's Threadneedle Street, said banks intended to increase mortgage lending, helped by cheaper funding under the Funding for Lending scheme. Banks are also seeking to boost market share and take on more risk.

LENDING: Government schemes have seen a rise in lending but many potential borrowers are nervous

The survey showed a significant improvement in the availability of credit to companies, but some analysts warn homeowners and would-be buyers not to get carried away.

Vicky Redwood, at Capital Economics, said: "Whether banks follow through on these intentions remains to be seen. What's more, even if banks make credit available, firms and households may not want to borrow more."

An increase in the supply of mortgage credit is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a rise in property transactions.

However, confidence among consumers is also vital – they must have the nerve to take on more debt. And this means reason for concern.

Real incomes remain under pressure and wage rises are not keeping pace with inflation for many households. Work is not the secure place it was prior to 2007. Also the criteria for first-time buyers remain a lot tougher than they ever were before the crash, requiring potential buyers to save large amounts of cash for their deposits.

More regulation could prevent boom and bust

MOVES are under way to regulate the housing market to prevent banks from requiring future taxpayer-funded bail-outs.

Banks offering generous home loans that could fuel a future housing boom will have to hold extra capital to keep the financial system safe, the Bank of England has stated.

Laws going through Parliament will give the Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee (FPC) wide-ranging powers.

The committee said tougher rules could slow growth during a credit expansion but would be of long-term benefit by reducing the risk of a future financial crisis, which could require taxpayers to fund banking reserves.

"If these tools are successful in reducing the likelihood and severity of financial crises, their use is likely to boost the expected level of UK GDP," the committee said in a draft policy statement.

"The best available studies point, on average, towards only a modest negative impact on near-term growth if [capital requirements] are tightened."

The Monetary Policy Committee could force lower interest rates than otherwise "to cushion the impact on growth" if tighter credit rules lowered the outlook for inflation, the report said.

Property booms and busts have been behind many of the UK's economic downturns over the past few decades and the central bank hopes the new tools will prevent over-valuing homes.

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Wheeling and dealing Kia offers a great start to new year

Driving carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAUXHALL ADAM

Price: from £11,255
Driving appeal: not yet driven
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Mini

Vauxhall plays the name game ... would you Adam and Eve it?

PEOPLE buying image cars like the Mini and Fiat 500 tend to give them nicknames, so Vauxhall has a tiny problem with its all-new Adam.

What do you do? Give it two names? "Err, I've got an Adam called Eve..."

Or do you just forget the Adam bit and refer to it as my Vauxhall called Gladys, Cyril, Betsy or whatever soppy handle you desire?

Wasn't really thought through, was it?

I blame the Germans, who probably aren't in the habit of giving their cars nicknames anyway and sell the same car as the Opel Adam, thereby celebrating the company's founder, Adam Opel but dictating terms to British sister brand Vauxhall.

Choice of name aside, though, the Adam is an interesting new venture from the two General Motors brands and in line with the corporate wish to move upmarket from the mainstream sector.

Priced from £11,255 and more city car than supermini in terms of space, the Adam is not cheap, but it does have premium appeal and a sense of style that includes a 'floating roof' visual trick, allowing a distinct two-tone paint treatment – particularly effective on those key rivals, the Mini and Citroën DS3.

For personalisation, customisation and image are everything in the 'handbag/manbag sector' of the car market.

The Adam has specials up its sleeve, too, such as a wild array of alloy wheels, many of which can be further colour-personalised.

And the choice is wide inside, where permutations even include an interior headliner that twinkles like the sky at night – it's been said that only Rolls-Royce readily offers its customers a feature like that.

But just in case buyers haven't a clue where to start before they even start to spec up their Adam – and the price – there are three cleverly-named trim levels from which they can then spin their own imaginative take or fit, whatever name they have chosen.

These are: Jam, for the youngest buyers; Glam, for more discerning females; and then Slam, for a sportier look and probably more for the boys.

I reckon they may need to slot in a snarling VXR version as well to give the range a halo car like the Mini Cooper S.

There's nothing of that ilk on offer for now, though; the onus is on economy with a fairly weedy but miserly 69bhp 1.2-litre petrol as the entry-level powertrain, backed up by a 1.4-litre petrol available with 86 or 99bhp.

I'm sure a diesel will be offered later, but I'm pleased it hasn't been made a priority.

Maybe that's because buyers are getting increasingly wise to the drawbacks of having a heavy – and expensive – diesel lump under the bonnet of a small car and spoiling the driving experience.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? The all-new Adam from Vauxhall comes in three basic trim levels – Jam, Glam and Slam – which can be personalised as the owner sees fit; you can even get an interior that twinkles like the night if you want...

DON'T LIKE

... how much this new Vauxhall is driven by its marketing and customisation options, but BMW has shown the way with the Mini.

NOT SURE

... the Vauxhall badge has the cachet of the Mini, but the Adam (what's yours also called?) will be a threat to the Fiat 500 and Citroën DS.

REALLY LIKE

... the brave thinking behind the car. Can we imagine the Vauxhall/Opel of the few years ago, trying something this bold? Err... no.

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Audi A4 not number one but still force to be reckoned with

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE is one big reason the Audi A4 is not the UK's favourite compact executive car – the BMW 3 Series.

The Beemer is a fixture in the national top-10 sellers list, while the Audi is a little way short of that.

The two brands themselves are pretty much neck and neck for sales overall; BMW had its nose slightly ahead last year with 6.25 per cent of the market versus Audi's 6.05, while Mercedes-Benz, Germany's other premium brand, was not so out of touch with 4.49 per cent.

Indeed, it is astonishing how well all three are performing in a tough economic climate; the UK market was up more than 5 per cent in 2012 but is still short of those heady times before recession hit in 2007.

The German triumvirate's resilience is not hard to fathom, though.

In the same way that gold values soar in hard times, company- and private-car-buyers are going for the 3 Series, A4 and their Mercedes-Benz rival, the C-Class, because they know that their upfront quality, desirability and status also translates into good resale values later.

So the A4 (from £23,780) might not be top dog for sales in its class, but it's still highly desirable and more so since a facelift in 2011.

We've tested it in the popular 2.0-litre diesel format that pits it against the 320d diesel that dominates 3 Series sales.

But rather than go for the low-emission 112g/km of CO_2 136PS (134bhp) version of this engine, also registering 65.7mpg on the official combined cycle, we've opted for the more responsive 143PS guise that is only slightly less eco, offering 119g/km and 62.8mpg respectively.

It's also in the upmarket S-Line trim that includes leather and cloth seats and sports suspension as standard, the whole package costing £28,465; competitive in this hard-fought market segment and highlighting that you now get much more kit for your money on cars like this.

The crisply-styled A4 and its four-ring grille badge also says a lot about you, pleases the eye, feels beautifully screwed together and is quiet and refined.

It impresses, too, that such a roomy and powerful car has emissions low enough to escape road tax in year one and incur just £30/year thereafter – some superminis can't manage that.

Talking of space, the previous A4 was rightly criticised for being a bit tight on rear legroom, which stung Audi designers, who responded with a much longer wheelbase for its successor.

The result is a cabin to please even the tallest and leggiest people, while the 480-litre boot is also big for this sector and can be extended by flopping down one or both rear seat sections.

On the road, it's a driver-pleaser, too. Purists who prefer the classic rear-driven layout of the 3 Series and C-Class sometimes deride the A4's front-wheel-drive arrangement, but it offers more security and traction in tricky conditions such as the recent snow and ice.

And if you must have ultimate handling and fun, go for versions with Audi's famous quattro all-wheel-drive system (from £29,275), although a front-driven S-Line's tauter suspension and chassis set-up allows you to exploit the car's grip and crisp six-speed gearbox.

Two caveats here, though. Firstly, S-Line suspension takes away some ride-quality improvements stemming from the car's facelift, so opt for a standard suspension model if you want a comfier ride.

Secondly, an eight-speed 'multitronic' twin-clutch auto box is available, with slick manual selection option and minimal fuel penalty, but it will set you back some £1,500 more than a manual.

AUDI A4 2.0TDI (143PS) S-LINE: PRICE £28,465

MAKING ITS MARQUE: Despite not being in the national top-10 sellers list, Audi's A4 is still a highly desirable car, even more so after its 2011 facelift and a redesign that gives it more cabin space and a larger 480-litre boot

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£30/yr (zero yr one)
Best rival:	BMW 3 Series

Kent dealers:

East Kent Audi Chartham	0845 1217721
Maidstone Audi Aylesford	0845 1262411
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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Octavia gets a growth spurt

SKODA launches an all-new Octavia on March 16, priced from £15,990 and available with a choice of two petrol or two diesel engines.

The arrival of Skoda's Rapid model last year, slotting into its range below the Octavia, allows this slightly larger and latest version to attack the likes of the Ford Mondeo while maintaining the VW-owned Czech brand's value pitch.

German pride takes a tumble

JAPANESE carmakers Honda (Accord is pictured) and Toyota top a Warranty Direct engine reliability table, with failure rates of just 0.29 per cent and 0.58 per cent respectively.

But German brands Audi (3.71), BMW (2.20) and Volkswagen (1.91) were among the 10 worst, although Mercedes-Benz rescued Teutonic pride with a 0.84 per cent result, placing it third from best.

Disco ahead of tow-car rivals

CARAVAN fans have voted the Land Rover Discovery 4 top when it comes to choosing a new tow car.

The survey by The Camping and Caravanning Club's insurance division showed 19 per cent favoured the 'Disco' for its strength, solidity and 4x4 traction as a replacement tow car – an 8 per cent better poll than its nearest rival.

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11 60 Renault Coupe 1.5 DCI 106 Expression 3dr
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09 59 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 16V Life Easytronic
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MOTORING

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DEALS ON WHEELS: Owners of the Kia Ceed, left, can get £3,000 reward for buying the latest version, while there are deals on the redesigned Sorento. The Picanto offers a tempting package for younger drivers.

Opening 2013 offers highlight Kia ambition

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FAST-EXPANDING Korean marque Kia raised UK sales in 2012 by almost a quarter against the previous year.

The surge delivered a market share of 3.26 per cent, outselling Skoda (2.62 per cent) and Honda (2.65 per cent) and closing on the likes of Citroën (3.6 per cent) Toyota (4.14) and even its own sister brand Hyundai (3.63).

It's not hard to recognise why Kia has made such progress; with a model replacement cycle of about five years when Western carmakers mostly stick to seven, Kia's range has seen huge modernisation in less than a decade; this is exemplified by the latest Ceed family hatchback and estate – a fine value-for-money alternative to the class-leading VW Golf.

But the brand also offers generous specifications and shows confidence in its products via a market-leading seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, which delivers real peace of mind.

Then there is Kia's obvious ambition, shown by the fact that a record-breaking year is now being followed by a string of aggressive offers for the start of 2013:

- One year's insurance for £99 on selected models and for drivers aged 21-80.
- Savings of up to £3,000 on some key models.
- 4.9 per cent Kia Access PCP (personal contract plan) and finance across the range.
- A £1,000 deposit contribution on the latest Ceed and Sportswagon (estate) models.
- A £3,000 loyalty reward for existing Ceed-owners who buy a replacement car from the new range.
- Care-3 all-inclusive servicing plans from £269.

The discount deals mean that the brand's entry model, the capacious Picanto five-door city car, comes with up to £1,250 off the retail price, bringing it down to a start price of £8,995.

Even bigger cuts are offered on the Rio supermini (up to £1,400) and Venga mini-MPV (up to £1,600). All of these are extra-appealing to budget-conscious younger buyers, who can then benefit too from the £99 first year's insurance deal and cheap servicing plan.

And, despite a recent and dramatic facelift for the big seven-seat Sorento SUV, Kia is also offering this with a £2,000 discount on all versions.

Perhaps most tempting of all is £1,000 off the good-looking Ceed series (from £13,495 with discount), or £3,000 if you already own one and fancy upgrading to the latest model

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VAUXHALL

Commercial Vehicles

Sales recovery for vans long overdue

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BIG HIT: The Master, above, is Renault's biggest van available in several formats, while Toyota's Dyna appeals to those needing dropside/tipping capability

IT WAS tough in the commercial-vehicle sector last year, with registrations down 5.9 per cent overall against 2011.

And December delivered a nasty sting in the tail with a dramatic 15.8 per cent drop against December 2011, reflecting an insipid year for the UK economy.

Of the two primary sectors – vans and trucks – the former was worst hit, with a 7.9 per cent decline. Trucks actually rose by 6.4 per cent but couldn't rescue the overall commercial-vehicles figure.

Fortunately, the SMMT – the motor industry's mouthpiece – feels this bleak outlook cannot continue.

Chief executive Paul Everitt admitted that business confidence had wavered but added: "We look forward to 2013 being a better year for the commercial-vehicle market, with a host of new products and innovative technologies boosting registrations."

This would also signal business confidence returning, since commercial vehicles oil the wheels of the economy, with trucks moving goods in bulk, while vans make local deliveries, service important sectors like construction and mobilise tradesmen.

Anecdotal evidence suggests a van recovery is particularly overdue, with many operators large and small pushing their vehicle-replacement programmes far beyond normal limits, challenging the higher durability and comfort levels of modern vans. As their ageing vehicles begin to look tatty – with public-image consequences – and incur more unprofitable downtime for maintenance, many may have to take the plunge.

There are other benefits if they do; van powertrain technology is beginning to echo that of cars, so there are real commercial and public-relations benefits from running a leaner and meaner fleet with better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

For Kent firms operating into London, there is also an opportunity to save on the capital's congestion charge by buying small eco vans with CO_2 emissions below 100g/km.

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Model shown Hilux Invincible Double Cab 3.0 manual basic price £20,666.49, offer excludes metallic paint £415 extra excluding VAT, delivery and on the road charges. *Contract Hire offer available to business users only on model shown when ordered, registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, KT18 5UZ on a 3 year non-maintained Toyota Contract Hire agreement between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 at participating Centres. Based on 10,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charges apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Subject to availability. ^Weekly equivalent payments are illustrative only, and payments can only be made monthly.
Hilux Invincible Double Cab 3.0. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg, Urban 29.7, Extra Urban 42.2, Combined 36.7. CO_2 Emissions 203g/km.

LIGHTING THE WAY: Renault's Kangoo ZE is an electric pioneer

LOADS BETTER: Peugeot's top load-lugger is the popular Boxer

IDEAL PICK UP AND GO: Multiple-award-winning Fiat Doblo

Better-packaged boxes make life easier

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VANS will always be load-lugging boxes at heart, but the packaging has changed dramatically over the past decade.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Many of the latter benefits come from car-derived crossover designs.

Initially, this trend was confined to smaller models derived from superminis or family hatchbacks. All that was needed was to blank out the rear windows and the driver could enjoy all the benefits of the equivalent car-owner, including air-con and a decent sound system. However, the same philosophy has since migrated to larger vans, sometimes taken from the platforms of popular hatchbacks, too, even if the van body is bespoke.

Load capacities have also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived hatchback – used by couriers or as a small company's runabout – up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above the supermini class now come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take up the option of a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin rear doors or a high-lift tailgate as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, with the double benefit of making it easy for a busy driver to grab the handle to close the door and also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

On the performance front, petrol-driven vans may still be available, but they have been all but been displaced by four- and five-cylinder diesels, offering better economy and range, plus good pulling power low down in the rev range.

Extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts then compound diesel-operating benefits.

The engine's partner – the gearbox – has also changed. A six-speed manual gearbox is normally the standard – a couple of cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also gained from cars; along with a driver's airbag and the option of passenger, side and front curtain airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).

Visit carsforkent.co.uk

Pick-ups keep picking up sales

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RECESSION? What recession? That's the question in the pick-up truck sector.

Sales have rocketed in the UK in recent years, both as commercial and leisure vehicles.

A reason for private numbers rising is tax anomalies, but many commercial operators also recognise they are relatively cheap yet capacious workhorses, available with two- or four-door cabs and, in the case of the 4x4 models, able to go most places required on a farm or construction site.

And perhaps traditional off-roaders lack the carrying capacity and have become too gentrified?

Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

But not all pick-ups have the whiff of Marlboro Man about them; Fiat decided that post-recession real-world economics needed to be applied and launched a version of its award-winning Doblò Cargo van.

Called the Doblò Work Up, it's a 'drop-side' vehicle with compact external dimensions allowing easy use in urban areas, though Fiat sees it selling across the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city parks services sectors, too.

PACESETTERS: Fiat's Doblò Work Up, top, and the renowned Toyota Hilux Invincible are among the leaders in the pick-up sector

Bipper's awards haul moving along nicely

PEUGEOT'S popular Bipper small van is the current holder of the Best Light Van title from the annual Van Fleet World awards.

Judges liked the vehicle's compact proportions, frugal HDi diesel engines and transmissions – with manual, automatic and Stop & Start systems available – generous payload of up to 660kg and a load volume of 2.5 cubic-metres.

The Bipper is also available in a popular 'Professional' version, featuring air-conditioning, half-height bulkhead and Bluetooth as standard for businesses requiring extra comfort and support for their van-drivers.

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(Salary: £23,054 – £26,421 pro rata)

0.5fte to be worked mainly evenings and weekends

Project Salus is a social enterprise established to deliver the services previously undertaken by Kent Safe Schools. We have recently been commissioned to deliver Youth Services in South East Urban Maidstone including the Shepway Youth Centre.

We are currently seeking an Integrated Youth Officer to implement our range of centre and street-based youth services in Maidstone. The role will involve working directly with young people and agencies, offering services and support with an aim to improve young people's emotional health and well-being.

We are looking for a talented individual, experienced in working directly with young people in creative and innovative ways to achieve the best possible outcomes. This post will require energy and enthusiasm to ensure the success of this highly valued service.

For more information please contact Peter Heckel on 07725595519

For an application pack please contact Katie Ling on 01303 817470 or at Katie.ling@projectsalus.co.uk

Closing Date: Monday 28th January at 5pm
Interviews will be held on the Thursday 7th February

Rainbow Centre

The Op Shop Ltd
Wish to appoint a
Charity Shop Manager

£13,000-£15,000 per annum (depending on experience)
40 hours/week including Saturdays

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to manage a local charity shop in Cheriton which raises funds for the work of the Folkestone Rainbow Centre.

You will be responsible for running a volunteer team. Previous experience of retail management essential.

For further details and an application form please contact:
Folkestone Rainbow Centre by
emailing info@rainbow-centre.org or
Telephone 01303 850733 between 10am - 1pm

Closing date for completed applications is **Friday 8 February 2013**
Interviews will be held on **Thursday 28 February 2013**

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Higher Education Information and Support Officer ***PO7***

£10,384 - £18,066 (Depending on Qualifications & Experience) - Medway/Maidstone

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to take on the role of Information Officer for our Higher Education students. Working alongside our existing Information and Guidance staff, the successful candidate will have customer service experience, enjoy working with people and have a good understanding of the financial issues that young people face when applying to and studying in Higher Education. Closing date: 12 noon, Wednesday 30 January 2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

CHORD

Chord Electronics Limited

We are looking for an individual to assist with customer sales and technical support for our products via phone and email.

This will primarily be an office based position but may involve some travel abroad to assist at tradeshows.

Full product training will be given but knowledge of HiFi or consumer electronics would be beneficial.

Working experience with email and Microsoft office would be expected and good phone and writing skills is essential.

Please send CV and introduction letter to:-
valerie@chordelectronics.co.uk

BLACK TIE FOODS

are looking for

Trainee SALES PEOPLE

in the **Kent and Sussex** area.

If you are looking for excellent rates of pay, a company vehicle and good prospects with full training provided call us now on

0800 848 8507

Thamesview SCHOOL

PD WELFARE ASSISTANT

34.58 hrs per wk for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 3
£14,241.00 - £16,144.00 per annum
Pro rata to £11,231.08 - £12,731.87 pa
Plus SEN Allowance of £1,181 pa

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Welfare Assistants to work closely with and support the needs of physically disabled (PD) students.

The post holder will be required to support PD students both in the classroom and within the PD area with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. Experience of dealing with students' welfare therefore is essential and the post holder will be required to undertake moving and handling training.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 29th January 2013
Interviews: Week Commencing 4th February 2013

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

jobs24.co.uk

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM AND MEMBERS

(2 POSTS)

Salary: £18,174 - £22,020 per annum (Grade D)
(Subject to job evaluation)
Hours: 37 hours per week

Shepway District Council serves a population of 108,000 and covers a district of 140 square miles.

The council works to four key objectives:

- Improving the appearance of our district
- Serving customers and the community
- Creating places where people want to live, work and visit
- Performing effectively

As part of achieving these objectives you will provide a high level of administrative and secretarial support to the Corporate Management Team and Members and will contribute to the overall work function of the newly formed Business Support team. The post holder will also act as the first point of contact for the Corporate Management team and Members, planning and scheduling work and arranging meetings and events.

The ideal candidate will have an NVQ Level 3 in Business Administration or equivalent and recent and relevant experience of working as a PA for senior management or very similar role. Excellent organisation and time management skills are also essential to be successful in this role.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5th February 2013.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 13th February 2013.

To apply, please download an application pack from our website www.shepway.gov.uk under 'Jobs and Careers' or email recruitment@shepway.gov.uk

Please return your application form to recruitment@shepway.gov.uk or HR Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

Local job search Local job found
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DP WORLD
London Gateway

NEW ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Get ready for your biggest challenge
Get ready to join a world class team
Get ready for a global company to invest in you
Get ready for London Gateway

London Gateway is the UK's first 21st Century major deep-sea container port and Europe's largest logistics park. Situated on the north bank of the River Thames near Thurrock in Essex, London Gateway will provide unrivalled shipping access for the world's leading businesses to an integrated road, rail and sea network.

We are now recruiting for a world-class engineering team to be part of a major and complex infrastructure project. We are 100% committed to the development of a strong team that will provide outstanding customer service, efficiently and reliability in its operations. We are looking for ambitious, hardworking people to join a 30,000 strong global team.

To learn more about Engineering opportunities at London Gateway please visit us on TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY from 9 am to 8 pm at HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, DARTFORD BRIDGE, UNIVERSITY WAY, DARTFORD, DA1 5PA

We are currently recruiting for:

- Electrical Technician
- Mechanical Technician
- Stores Officer
- Engineer Maintenance Planner
- Engineering Team Leader
- Park Clerk of Works
- Automation and Optimisation Engineer
- Crane Manager
- Document Controller
- High Voltage Technician
- Maintenance, Reliability and Infrastructure Manager

COMMITMENT – INNOVATION – GROWTH – RESPONSIBILITY

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Principal/Chief Executive

- COMPETITIVE SIX-FIGURE SALARY
- ATTRACTIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE
- RELOCATION PACKAGE
- SUPPORTED PROGRESSION INTO CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE

Are you INNOVATIVE, INSPIRING and AMBITIOUS?

MidKent College comprises three key elements: MKC Training Services, which provides all of the training for the Royal School of Military Engineering at Chatham; our new £86 million campus at Medway; and our Maidsone Campus, which is currently undergoing a major refurbishment.

As one of the biggest and best providers of further and higher education in the country, we are now on the hunt for an exceptional new principal who will take over as principal/chief executive from 2015.

From September 2013 we are separating out the roles of principal and chief executive. Stephen Grix will continue part-time as the chief executive responsible for the strategic direction of the College and MKC Training Services. The successful candidate for this post will spend their first two years leading the College as principal and from 2015 will move into the combined role of principal/chief executive.

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk/principal for more information and to apply for this life-changing career opportunity. Alternatively call HR director Andrea Ashman for an informal discussion on 01634 383544.

Closing date: Monday 25 February 2013 ***Interview dates: Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 March 2013***

Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | Investor in People | KEiBA WINNER

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

MidKent College

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

BURTON ROAD, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Burton Road, Ashford, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Faversham Road and Warwick Road.

The alternative routes are via Faversham Road, Nettlefield Road and Burton Road or via Burton Road, Church Road and Faversham Road.

HIGHBURY LANE, TENTERDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply to Highbury Hall Youth Club, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Highbury Lane, Tenterden, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street and Bridewell Lane.

WATER LANE, SMARDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair the Chequers Inn following accident damage, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Smarden, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Street.

The alternative route is via Bell Lane, Smarden Bell Lane, Burnthouse Lane, Biddenden Road and Cage Lane.

NOTICE

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS
AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

(1) Extend the existing 30mph speed limit on Egerton Road, Pluckley (2) install a new 40mph limit on The Pinnock, Pluckley Thorne and (3) install a new 30mph limit through Chambers Green, Pluckley.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 28/01/2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, EGERTON, ASHFORD)

(WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, has made an Order, the effect of which is to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from using;

Sandway, Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane, Glebeland, The Street, Stonebridge Green Road, Iden Lane, Field mill Road, Southfield Lane, Barnfield Road, Hurst Lane, Newlands Road, Park Lane, Hunder Hatch Lane, Burnt Mill Road, Hazeldene Farm Road, Egerton Road from its junction with Field Mill Road to its junction with Vicarage Lane, Pivington Lane from Park Lane to a point 228m north of its junction with Egerton Road.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on 20 January 2013, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads affected by the new provisions may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford TN23 1AS and the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

HAMILTON ROAD, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install kerb build-outs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hamilton Road, Whitstable, on or after 16 February 2013 as shown below.

Works are planned to be carried out on the weekends of 16 & 17 February and 23 & 24 February.

The planned closure times are between 08:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs each Saturday and between 09:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs each Sunday.

The road will be closed at the junction with Stream Walk.

The alternative route is via Regent Street and Cromwell Road.

LANES WALK & CUCKOO DOWN LANE, WHITSTABLE
(RESTRICTIONS ON CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works as part of scheme to install Oyster Bay Cycle Trail, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting pedestrians and cyclists on Lanes Walk & Cuckoo Down Lane, Whitstable, as shown below.

LANES WALK will be closed for its entire length, from 11 February 2013 for up to 1 week.

The alternative route is via Tower Parade, Cromwell Road and Westgate Terrace.

CUCKOO DOWN LANE will be closed for its entire length, from 15 February 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Westgate Terrace and Reservoir Road

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A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a structural survey of the Westgate Towers to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A290 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 17 February 2013, between 08:00 hrs and 16:00 hrs.

The road will be closed adjacent to the south side of the Westgate Towers, with no through access between St Peter's Place and St Dunstan's Street / North Lane.

The alternative route is via A290 St Peter's Place, A2050 Rheims Way, London Road, A290 St Dunstan's Street and Station Road West.

B2205 ST JOHN'S ROAD & COLEWOOD ROAD, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 St John's Road & Colewood Road, Whitstable, on or after 17 February 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs each day.

The roads will be closed between the junctions with Kite Farm and Tyler Way, with no through access between Whitstable and Herne Bay using this route.

The alternative route for low vehicles is via B2205 Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, Chestfield Road and St John's Road.

For all vehicles over 13' 3" (4.0 M), the alternative route is via B2205 Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Borstal Hill, Canterbury Road, Oxford Street, High Street, Harbour Street, Tower Parade, Tankerton Road, Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road and St John's Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

CHURCH HILL STONE LEVEL CROSSING DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to Arris rail and tarmac repairs, Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Hill Stone Travel Crossing, on or after 17th February 2013 for up to 1 night and 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside of the level crossing.

The alternative route is Church Hill Stone Place road , London road St Clements way Crossway Bolouvard and Charles street .

STATION APPROACH DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the set up a crane to lift a structure onto platform 3 and 4 on Dartford Station, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Approach Dartford, on or after 17th February 2013 for up to l day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Station Approach.

There is no alternative diversion , however access to the station carpark to be maintained if possible.

WARREN ROAD SOUTHFLEET
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT require safe access to the carriageway box for cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Warren Road Southfleet, on or after 11th February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Dale Road to the junction with New Barn Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions .

The alternative route is via New Barn Road and Red Street.

WHITEHILL ROAD LONGFIELD DARTFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whitehill Road, Longfield Dartford, on or after 29th January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Main road to the junction of Highcross Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

The alternative route is Via Highcross Road, Sandbanks Hill, Green Street and Main road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

ROWLING ROAD, GOODNESTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to the overhead cable network to restore customer a phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rowling Road, Goodnestone, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs each day.

The road will be closed from Lower Rowling Farm north-eastwards to the junction with Sandwich Road.

The alternative route is via Sandwich Road and Rowling Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOLD STREET MEOPHAM, GRAVESEND

(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

Because of BT require access to overhead network cables for new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gold Street Meopham, on or after 30th January 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from junction Sole Street on Gold Street to junction Batts Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Sole Street, The Street, Cobhambury Road Luddesdown Road, Henley Street and Vice Versa.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Pinnock Lane to Pristling Lane.

The alternative route is via Pristling Lane, Five Oak Lane.

SLIP ROAD BETWEEN A20 LONDON ROAD
AND A26 TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to lay 10m of BT duct, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the slip road between A20 London Road and A26 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, on or after 17 February 2013 for up to 3 nights between 19.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A20 The Broadway, A229 St Peters Bridge/Fairmeadow, A20 The Broadway, A26 Tonbridge Road.

WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of traffic calming measures, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Street, Harrietsham, on or after 16 February 2013 for up to 9 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside of The Primary School.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Hook Lane.

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching and surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 11th February 2013 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE

CROSS STREET, MAIDSTONE - closed between Hardy Street and Peel Street.

18th to 20th March 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Fisher Street, Peel Street, John Street and Hardy Street.

HUNT STREET, WEST FARLEIGH - closed between Smiths Hill and Bow Hill.

11th to 15th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2163 Smiths Hill, Teston Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road and Bow Hill.

PILGRIMS WAY, HARRIETSHAM & THURNHAM - closed between Hollingbourne Hill and The Street, Detling

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

11th February to 19th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Hollingbourne Hill, Upper Street, Eyhorne Street, A20 Ashford Road, Roundwell, The Street, Bearsted, Ware Street, Hockers Lane and The Street, Detling.

FRINSTEAD LANE, WORMSHILL - closed up to Bedmonton House entrance.

19th February to 20th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE - Closed between A20 Ashford Road and Eyhorne Street.

4th to 8th March 2013. 0830hrs - 1730hrs

Alternative route via A20 Ashford Road and Eyhorne Street.

HAMPSTEAD LANE, YALDING - closed between Level crossing at Yalding Station and B2015 Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Green.

1st to 6th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via B2015 Maidstone Road, Bow Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2163 Teston Lane, Smiths Hill, Yalding Hill, B2010 High Street, Yalding, B2162 Lees Road, Hampstead Lane.

STATION ROAD, NETTLESTEAD GREEN - closed between B2162 Hampstead Lane and B2015 Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Green.

5th to 9th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Via B2015 Maidstone Road and B2162 Hampstead Lane.

HAZEL STREET ROAD, HAZEL STREET NR HUCKING - closed between South Green Lane and Southlees Lane.

21st February to 27th February. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via South Green Lane and Southlees Lane.

SOUTH GREEN LANE, SOUTH GREEN, NR HUCKING - closed between Rumstead Road and Hazel Street Road.

21st February to 27th February. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via South Green Lane, Southlees Lane and Hazel Street Road.

LODDINGTON LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA - closed between B2163 Heath Road and Butt Green Lane.

8th to 9th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Butt Green Lane, A229 Linton Hill and B2163 Heath Road.

WILDEN PARK ROAD, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Park Road and Five Oak Lane.

10th to 11th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Pagehurst Road, Five Ash Lane and Five Oak Lane

PRISTLING LANE, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst and Snoad Lane

11th to 15th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via Goudhurst Road Five Oak Lane and Snoad Lane.

SNOAD LANE, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Five Oak Lane and Pristling Lane.

11th 15th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via Five Oak Lane, Goudhurst Road and Pristling Lane.

SMITHS HILL, WEST FARLEIGH - Closed from Ewell Lane to Shingle Barn Lane.

18th to 21st February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via B2163 Smiths Hill, Teston Lane, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road, Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, Yalding High Street, Yalding Hill and Smiths Hill.

WYEBANKS ROAD, (Nr DODDINGTON) - Closed between Snoad Farm Road and Slade Road.

28th February to 1st March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via Slade Road, Seed Road and Frith Road.

BOY COURT LANE, HEADCORN - Tilden (Upper Little Boy Court Farm)

22nd to 24th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

No alternative route as no through road.

WICHLING GREEN LANE, DODDINGTON - Closed from Endings Wood Road to Old Lenham Road.

4th March to 6th March, 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via Old Lenham Road, The Street, Doddington, Old Lenham Road and Endings Wood Road.

NEW ROAD, OTHAM - Closed between A274 Sutton Road and Avery Lane.

21st to 22nd February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road, White Horse Lane and Simmonds Lane.

HONEY LANE, OTHAM - Avery Lane to White Horse Lane

22nd to 23rd February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via New Road, A274 Sutton Road, Gore Court Road, White Horse Lane and Simmonds Lane.

SIMMONDS LANE, OTHAM - Closed between Honey Lane and White Horse Lane

23rd to 24th February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via White Horse Lane and Honey Lane.

PARK LANE, WORMSHILL - Closed from The Street, Wormshill to end.

7th to 8th March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

No alternative route as this is a no through road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

LONDON ROAD, WEALD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works for access to manholes for cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on London Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, on or after 5th February 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Riverhill for a distance of 200 metres. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Riverhill, B245 London Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AND ASHFORD

A251 ASHFORD ROAD, SHELDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A251 Ashford Road, Sheldwich, Faversham, on or after 15 February 2013 as shown below.

The A251 Ashford Road will be closed at North Street, between the junctions with Plumford Lane and Porters Lane.

There will be no access between Ashford and Faversham using the A251.

The planned dates of closures are as follows

HALF TERM

Saturday 16 February 2013 from 07:30 hrs through until Sunday 24 February at 17:00 hrs

EASTER

Friday 29 March 2013 from 07:30 hrs through until Sunday 14 April at 17:00 hrs

The diversion routes are

Northbound via A251 Ashford Road, Faversham Road, A252 Canterbury Road, The Street, Maidstone Road, A28 Canterbury Road, Ashford Road, Thanington Road then joining the A2 Trunk Road at Thanington continuing via Brenley Corner to A2 Canterbury Road and A251 Ashford Road.

Southbound, there is no access between the A2 and A28 at Thanington. The route is A251 Ashford Road, A2 Canterbury Road via Brenley Corner, A2 Trunk Road continuing coast bound to the Coldharbour Lane junction (signposted Barham, Kingston, Bish'b'rne) then London bound on the A2 to Thanington to join the A28 Thanington Road, Ashford Road, Canterbury Road, A252 Maidstone Road, The Street, Canterbury Road, A251 Faversham Road to Ashford Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

ALLAND GRANGE LANE, MANSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install new signage, road markings and red high friction surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Alland Grange Lane, Manston, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 3 days, between 08:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs each day.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via B2190 Spitfire Way & B2050 Manston Road.

BROAD STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to reline a sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Street, Ramsgate, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with School Lane, with no through access between the junctions with Hardres Street and School Lane.

The alternative route is via Hardres Street, Boundary Road, Chatham Place, Chatham Street, High Street and Church Hill.

HARBOUR STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install water connections to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Harbour Street, Ramsgate, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 3 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 34-40, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Madeira Walk, Wellington Crescent, Plains of Waterloo and King Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Harbour Street will be suspended to allow access.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of King Street will be suspended between the junctions with Broad Street and Harbour Street.

PLUMSTONE ROAD, ACOL & PRESTON ROAD, MANSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumstone Road, Acol and Preston Road, Manston, on or after 11 February 2013 as shown below.

Planned closure times are between 07:30 hrs and 16:30 hrs each day for both closures.

PLUMSTONE ROAD, ACOL will be closed for its entire length, from 11 February for up to 5 days.

The alternative route is via Seamark Road, A299 Canterbury Road West and Minster Road

PRESTON ROAD, MANSTON will be closed for its entire length, from 18 February for up to 3 days.

The alternative route is via Manston Road and Manston Court Road.

THANET ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thanet Road, Broadstairs, on or after 11 February 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Albion Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Albion Street and Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Street, High Street, Prospect Place and Thanet Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

BARMING ROAD, WATERINGBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Barming Road, Wateringbury, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wateringbury Road for 250 metres.

The alternative route is via North Pole Road, North Street, A26 Tonbridge Road, Malling Road.

HALL ROAD, WOULDHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall Road, Wouldham, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 86 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Knowle Road to the end of Hall Road.

The alternative route is via Knowle Road, Rochester Road, Scarborough Lane.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

NORTH FARM ROAD/DOWDING WAY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track renewal works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Farm Road/Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 3 February 2013 for up to 1 night between 01.20hrs and 04.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via North Farm Road, Sandhurst Road, Birken Road, Liptraps Lane, Lamberts Road, Dowding Way.

COLLIERS GREEN ROAD, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Colliers Green Road, Cranbrook, on or after 16 February 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Marden Road to Round Green.

The alternative route is via Marden Road, Goudhurst Road, The Common, Rocks Hill, Cranbrook Road, Pinnock Lane, Goudhurst Road.

WATERLOO ROAD, CRANBROOK (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of traffic calming measures, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterloo Road, Cranbrook, on or after 16 February 2013 for up to 9 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Stone Street to Cornwallis House.

The alternative route is via Stone Street, High Street, Angley Road, Wilsey Green, Waterloo Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (RESURFACING) (PROHIBI TION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching and surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 28th January 2013 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

OLD HOUSE ROAD, FORDCOMBE - closed between B2168 Fordcombe Road and Leggs Lane.

28 - 31 January 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via B2168 Fordcombe Road, The Lane and Old House Road. (And vice versa)

DIG DOG LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed between C89 Frittenden Road and C146 Hareplain Road (At the Three Chimneys Public House).

28 January to 8 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

Alternative route via Hareplain Road, U1718 Biddenden Road, C89 The Street and Frittenden Road (And vice versa)

ETHNAM LANE, SANDHURST - closed for its whole length

31 January to 1 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

BUBHURST LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed for its whole length

4 February to 5 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

BABBS LANE, BENENDEN - B2086 Mounts Hill to Nineveh Lane.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

18 to 22 February 2013. 0830hrs - 1730hrs

Alternative route via Coldharbour Road, Iden Green Road and B2086 Cranbrook Road (And vice versa).

FRIEZLEY LANE, GOUDHURST - closed for its whole length

25 to 28 February, 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs

(No alternative route as this is a no through road).

KNOWLE LANE, BRENCHLEY - closed between Mile Oak Road and Knowle Road.

1 to 3 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Knowle Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill and Mile Oak Road.

VAUXHALL LANE, SOUTHBOROUGH - closed between A26 London Road and Vauxhall Lane at Cottage Hospital entrance.

4 to 8 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Vauxhall Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road and A26 London Road. (And vice versa).

LADY OAK LANE, GOUDHURST - A21 to Balcombes Hill.

11 - 15 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative route via Balcombes Hill, A262 West Road, Clayhill, Station Road, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, School Hill, The Broadway, Spray Hill and A21 London Road. (And vice versa).

ROGERS ROUGH ROAD, GOUDHURST - Lady Oak Lane to Church Road, Kilndown

25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane. (And vice versa)

PRIORS HEATH, GOUDHURST - B2079 Lady Oak Lane to Roger's Rough Road. 25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane. (And vice versa)

CHICKS LANE, GOUDHURST - Rogers Rough Road to Church Road,Kilndown.

25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.

Alternative Route via Church Road, Kilndown, Ranters Lane, Peasley Lane, B2079 Bedgebury Road and Lady Oak Lane. (And vice versa)

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 27th January 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

ICE CREAM RIGHTS

Sites to be licensed for 2013 season
28 March - 1 October

Quotations are invited for the rights to sell ice cream from a van/mobile kiosk at one or more of these sites:-

1. Next to the Royal Military Canal and the Hythe Cricket Club, Hythe,
2. Farthing Common, Stone Street, Monks Horton,
3. Coast Drive Car Park, Littlestone,
4. New Lade Car Park, Lydd-on-sea.

Quotations should be submitted by 12 noon on 1st March 2013

Site plans, licence conditions and methods for submitting quotations can be obtained by visiting www.shepway.gov.uk/licensing or alternatively by contacting Property Services for a quotation pack on 01303 853472.

The council does not bind itself to accept the highest, or any quotation. All quotations are to be submitted on council approved documentation.

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Dominic Di Cara**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham**

Applicant: **Susan Wilson**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Barn, 1 Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells**

Applicant: **Philippe Sorak**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

6TH FEBRUARY 2013

By order of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

barnard marcus

Site at Woolley Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0LE

- freehold site (and buildings) with planning permission for a detached bungalow with parking

Guide £45,000

Please call 0208 741 8088

www.barnardmarcusauctions.co.uk

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Jason Bellamy trading as JB's Haulage Ltd of 34 Tupman Close, Rochester, Kent ME1 1RS is applying to change an existing license as follows

To add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 3 trailsers at Ryarsh Business Park, Roughetts Road, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent ME19 5LR and which applies at the operating centre at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/02077/FUL: 48 Middle Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BN Construction of first floor rear extension to provide floor space and improve layout. **Applicant: Mr D Nurse** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00017/FUL: The Glebe, St Mildreds Church, Church Lane, Canterbury Change of use of vacant land for use as a garden for educational purposes with associated works including potting sheds and greenhouses for use by adults with a learning disability (Sui Generis Use). **Applicant: Mr P Bell** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00031/FUL: Former Wyevale Garden Centre, London Road, Upper Harbledown Residential development of 19 no. dwellings, access road, car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure; provision of an 18 space car park for use in association with the village hall (or for use as a community tennis court); provision of other community open space; erection of Class B1(a) office buildings (single-storey). **Applicant: Mr J Whibley** Reason: Contrary to development plan and conservation area.

CA//13/00061/FUL: Millbourne, Wickham Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RE Removal of tile hanging to elevations and replacement with Marley Eternit Cedral weather boarding, colour white. Replacement of all metal framed windows and side door with uPVC double glazed units. Erection of uPVC conservatory on brick dwarf walling to match existing brickwork. Solar panels to be positioned on rear roof pitch. **Applicant: Mr Vine** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00069/FUL: 172-174 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay Change of use of two ground floor retail units to two self-contained one bedroom apartments. **Applicant: W H Properties** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00071/FUL: 13 South Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5AR Replacement front windows. **Applicant: Mrs Willis** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00088/FUL: The Vine House, Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, CT4 5ED Installation of hanging Kent Peg tiles on southwest facing gable end wall. **Applicant: Mr Mark Jenner** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00089/FUL: 68 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB Loft conversion (incorporating rooflights to front and dormer window to rear) and internal alterations including extension and change of pitch to roof. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hughes** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00091/ADV: The Prince Albert, Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Removal of existing signage and replacement with illuminated signs **Applicant: Punch Taverns** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00093/FUL: 43 Roper Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EQ Proposed single-storey rear extension and extension to rear roof slope. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr S Stephens** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00107/FUL: Plough Inn, London Road, Upper Harbledown, CT2 9AW Change of use of public house (Class A4) to single dwelling (Class C3), demolition of part of the toilet block and refurbishment of the main building. The construction of a sun space/conservatory. **Applicant: Mr Bungar** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/00108/FUL: 17 Best Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JB External and internal alterations to house and garage and erection of replacement extension. **Applicant: Mr C Lloyd and Dr Flavia Silva** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00109/ADV: 32-33 Watling Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AN Proposed fascia sign. **Applicant: Whitehead Monckton** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00111/LB: 17 Best Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2JB External and internal alterations to house and garage and erection of replacement extension. **Applicant: Mr C Lloyd and Dr Flavia Silva** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/00114/FUL: 12 St Gregory's Road, Canterbury, CT1 1NT Two-storey side extension. **Applicant: Mrs Clout Hart** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/00115/FUL: 12 Daniels Court, Whitstable, CT5 1ET Third-floor extension to corner turret and extension to northwest elevation to provide lift to all floors. **Applicant: Mr M Sundin** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 18 February 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 25 January 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/2181/S - ROCK FARM, GIBBS HILL, NETTLESTEAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5HT - Amendments to application MA/11/0550 (Rebuilding of stables to form accommodation for holiday let) being changes to the car parking arrangement and amenity space. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2185/N - THE STABLES, GREEN HILL, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8RR - Retrospective application for the change of use of land to garden land and erection of summerhouse and decking. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/2276/S - ROYDON FARM, PYE CORNER, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1EG - Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of planning permission reference MA/03/2369 (change of use of land to a mixed use of agricultural and residential for the stationing of one mobile home and one touring caravan and utility room for gypsy family) to enable the stationing of two additional mobile homes for an extended gypsy family. **Reason: 7**

MA/12/2296/N - EARLS, 30, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - Listed building consent for replacement of existing single exit door on first floor with double door and reduction in width of adjacent sash window. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2299/N - EARLS, 30, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - Replacement of existing single exit door on first floor with double door and reduction in width of adjacent sash window. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/2300/N - MAITLANDS FARM, WOODSIDE GREEN, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2ES - Erection of an extension to a new grain store. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2303/S - CONCORDE HOUSE, 10, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8QA - Change of use and works to convert the existing building to 73 residential units with associated access, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 1 2 6**

MA/12/2316/S - LAND SOUTH OF ST PETERS CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, KENT - Change of use of land from agriculture to churchyard to provide an extension to the existing churchyard to be used for interment of cremated remains, burials and a remembrance garden. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2327/N - 5, PLANTATION LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BH - Erection of single storey side and rear extension to include garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0011/S - WESTREE HOUSE, 2, WESTREE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8HB - Listed Building Consent for installation of a fire door between Studio 4 & Studio 3. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0014/S - BARDINGLEY FARM, BABYLON LANE, HAWKENBURY, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0EG - Erection of a timber conservatory to replace existing and installation of timber bi-fold doors to rear elevation of dwelling. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0043/N - BROOK HOUSE, LOWER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RR - Application for listed building consent to replace existing conservatory with white hardwood conservatory. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 -Application is Major Development.
7 -Application affects a Public Right of Way.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **10th February 2013** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 27th January 2013.

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00099/FUL Colt Cottage Postern Lane, Capel
- Change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage (LB)

12/03497/LBC 27 High Street Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Reinstatement of upper part of building as self-contained dwelling. Structural repairs, including chimney reconstruction and facade repairs (works already carried out) (LB)

13/00051/FUL The Find Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Change of use to shop and offices with ancillary storage. (LB) (CA)

13/00052/LBC The Find Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use to shop and offices with ancillary storage, new signage (LB)

12/03134/HOUSE Holmans Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- French doors to replace casement window in East elevation (LB)

12/03138/LBC Holmans Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: French doors to replace casement window in East elevation (LB)

12/03443/HOUSE Holmans Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Alterations to pool house to include two new windows, install two chimney flues, remove existing brick chimney. Add timber louvres on right hand bay, reconfigure left hand bay for wood storage and reduce plant room size (LB)

12/03446/LBC Holmans Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed building consent - Alterations to pool house to include two new windows, install two chimney flues, remove existing brick chimney. Add timber louvres on right hand bay, reconfigure left hand bay for wood storage and reduce plant room size (LB)

13/00027/LBC Rowan Cottage Attwaters Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of one first floor single glazed timber framed window (LB)

13/00070/OUTMJ OS Plot 6447 Adjacent Dormers 12 Bayham Road, Pantiles & St Marks

- Outline (Access not reserved) - Erection of up to 45 dwellings including associated access and parking, utilities and service infrastructure, amenity space, open space and landscaping for The Fairfield Partnership (MAJOR) (DEVPLN)

13/00045/HOUSE 17 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Replacement of existing gates with electronically automated gates (LB) (CA)

13/00117/LBC The Malt House Queen Street, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Change in position of doors to rear elevation of garden room (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1RS

Dated: 26 January 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0007/SH - The Old School House The Square Elham Canterbury Kent - Listed building consent for removal of existing partition wall, erection of new partitions to form 3 ensuite bathrooms to first floor.

Y12/1099/SH - St Michaels Church Church Hill Hawkinge Folkestone Kent - Listed building consent for installation of woodburner flue.

Y13/0026/SH+ - Slaybrook Hall Sandling Road Sandling Hythe Kent - Listed Building Consent for the demolition of internal partition walls and blocking of existing opening to ground floor

Y13/0009/SH# - 1 Sycamore Gardens Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LA - Erection of a ground floor canopy structure to the rear elevation.

Y12/0810/SH - Holt Lodge School Hill Bodsham Ashford Kent - Change of use from a stable block to holiday let accommodation, together with external alterations and patio area.

Y13/0027/SH - Cordova Court Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2HQ - Felling of one Sycamore and re-pollarding of six further Sycamore trees, all situated within a conservation area

Y13/0021/SH - Walnut Tree House High Street Elham Canterbury Kent - Installation of weatherboarding to replace existing tile hanging to first floor external walls

Y12/1143/SH+ - Brockhill Park Performing Arts College Sandling Road Saltwood Hythe Kent - Erection of a single storey replacement arts facility building following demolition of an existing building.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 11 FEBRUARY 2013.

SW/12/1019:
Construction of Solar Farm comprising up to 7000 solar panels, plus associated equipment, cabling & works - New Kaine Farm, Holywell Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1596:
Construction of 5 x 4 bedroom detached dwellings and associated vehicle parking plus realignment of Rook Lane including new access to mast and new section of roadway to waterworks - Land at Rook Lane, BOBBING; **REASON 7**

SW/13/0002:
Proposed erection of a single detached 4 bed house and detached garage, on land to the side of an existing dwelling - Land adjacent Glazedale, Bannister Hill, BORDEN; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0005:
Proposed single storey rear extension - 44 Spillett Close, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0008:
Removal of two prefabricated buildings, to be replaced by new weatherboarded pavilion with slate roof, new small tennis practice courts and rebound fence - Faversham Tennis Club, Faversham Recreation Ground, Park Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0012:
Proposed new front entrance door in timber. To replace existing plate glass - 20 East Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0014:
New first floor windows to lounge of existing residential Oast house - Vine Farm Oast, Stockers Hill, BOUGHTON, **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0015:
Conversion and enlargement of existing farm building to two storey showroom and storage - Farm Building, Vine Farm, Stockers Hill, BOUGHTON; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0016:
Installation of stainless steel flue, painted black - Sutton Barn, Sutton Baron Road, BORDEN; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0031:
Increasing the capacity of the existing church car park from 9 to 22 spaces - Land to North East of Kettle Hill Road, EASTLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

TN/13/0007:
Installation of one broadband cabinet within pavement to front of store - O/s Iceland Foods PLC, Unit 3, 90-102 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SE/0439/2012 - Proposed development at Otford Primary School, High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5PG

KCC Property Group is applying to the Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the demolition of the existing swimming pool building and erection of a new building to accommodate three additional classrooms with associated welfare facilities and an extension to the existing school hall. The proposed development adjoins a Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

KCC/SH/0381/2011 - Proposed development at Dungeness Borrow Pit, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 9NA

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd and the Environment Agency has submitted further environmental information under regulation (22) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 in support of application reference KCC/SH/0381/2011 for shingle recycling for the purpose of flood defence. The original application was accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development is within the Dungeness Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the original environmental statement and further information submitted from Halcrow Group, Burderop Park, Swindon, SN4 0QD Tel: 01793 816360 so long as stocks last, at a reasonable charge.

You may view this application at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or at the One Stop Service Lydd, Guildhall, Lydd, Kent, TN29 9AJ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 27th January 2013

Kent County Council

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CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by varying existing charges relating to parking in Canterbury.

Increase to charges for on-street pay and display parking:

Increase hourly charge from £1 to £1.10

Increase to charges for on-street permits:

Canterbury Residents' On-Street Permits – City Centre zone – increase from £125 to £138

Canterbury Residents' On-Street Permits – 2 hour zone – increase from £75 to £83

Canterbury Residents' On-Street Permits – 4 hour zone – increase from £55 to £60

Canterbury On-Street Business Users' Permits – increase from £355 to £390

Canterbury Visitors' Permits – increase from £3.50 to £4

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by varying existing charges relating to parking in Herne Bay.

Increase to charges for on-street pay and display parking in Central Parade:

Increase hourly charge from 60p to 70p.

Increase to charges for on-street permits:

Herne Bay Residents' On-Street Permits – increase from £50 to £55

Herne Bay Market Traders' Permits – increase from £32 to £35

Herne Bay Business Users' Permits – increase from £120 to £132

Herne Bay Visitors' Permits – increase from £1.60 to £1.80

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by varying existing charges relating to parking in Whitstable.

Increase to charges for on-street pay and display parking in Beach Walk:

Up to 30 minutes – increase from 30p to 40p

30 minutes to 1 hour – increase from 60p to 70p

1 hour to 4 hours – increase from £2.40 to £2.80

Increase to charges for on-street permits:

Whitstable Residents' On-Street Permits – increase from £50 to £55

Whitstable Visitors' Permits – increase from £1.60 to £1.80

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2012 by varying existing charges relating to parking in Sturry.

Increase to charges for on-street permits:

Sturry Residents' On-Street Permits – increase from £55 to £60

Full details are contained in the draft orders which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the orders and a copy of any orders which will be amended by the proposed orders, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices in Military Road, Canterbury or William Street, Herne Bay during normal office hours.

If you wish to object to the proposed orders you should write, stating the grounds for your objection, to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW. Alternatively you may email your response to **transportation@canterbury.gov.uk**. Your submission must be received by noon on **Friday 15 February**.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed orders or require further information please email the city council's Transportation Team or telephone 01227 862 544 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

This Notice is published on behalf of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation, Enterprise and Environment, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 2XQ.

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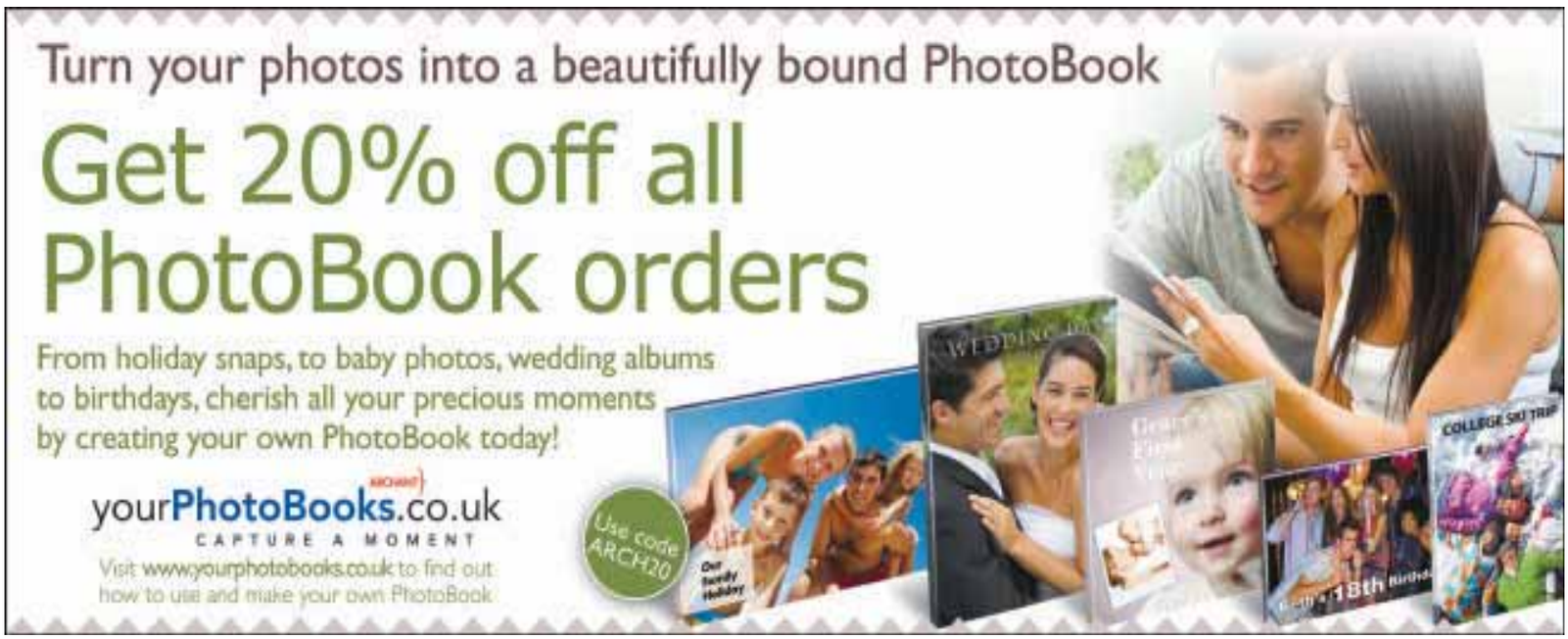

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(T&C's below)

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

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45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg, min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t/cs below

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

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BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

LOVING caring Ashford male, 46, likes outdoors, country pubs, cosy nights in, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401233**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401361**

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353**

TIM own car/flat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401351**

ALAN from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**

SINGLE solvent 60yr old male, seeks female companion for days out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401281**

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

BLACK male, 50, 6ft, down to earth, easygoing, seeks female, 38-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401135**

PAUL 52, businessman, own home, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401127**

DENNIS 64, retired, solvent, 6ft 4ins, 16st, widower, seeks friendly, attractive female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401095**

STEVE 64, young at heart, ex-marine, likes meals out, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401063**

RICHARD blue eyes, 48, slim-medium build, likes travel, theatre, cinema, music, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401049**

MARGATE gent 70's, easygoing, tactile, seeking company of lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400995**

PHIL 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**

SLIM bi male, smooth, seeks male, 50 plus for flexible daytime fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394012**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good-natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

SALVATORE 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

BUILDER 43, tall, good-looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

ALAN gay guy, sensitive, likes music, art, seeks similar for friendship, holidays and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401569**

ANDREW bi male, 59, N/S, seeks male of any age up to 75 for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394228**

STRAIGHT lady 47, N/S, new to Gravesend area, seeking friends, likes most things with varied interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401285**

YOUTHFUL 60yr old male, bi-curious, seeks similar aged male for uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394116**

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

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NATALIA, naughty but nice! Chat to me about anything you wish. **Text ARCHT 205507 to 66888**

JULIET, just left Boarding School, mature 18yrs seeking fun chat with guys. **Text ARCHT 206486 to 66888**

SINGLE mum, bored at home, why not chat to me. **Text ARCHT 205529 to 66888**

JANET, Glamorous grannie, v young looking, 58 yrs, would love to chat to you. **Text ARCHT 205904 to 66888**

CALLING all men, Jasmine is at home with the phone in her hand, awaiting your calls, she is 28yrs and is vibrant, attractive and fun loving. **Text ARCHT 205667 to 66888**

JESSICA is a blonde bombshell, just waiting to chat to you. **Text ARCHT 206365 to 66888**

PAULA is a petite black lady with a generous smile and luscious dark hair. Give her a call today. **Text ARCHT 206418 to 66888**

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STRONG minded lady, seeks easygoing, gentle type man to boss around! Why not text me. **Text ARCHT 205735 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

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CRICKET

Hurt of T20 final loss will spur us on to defend title, says Greenway

England's women cricketers begin the defence of their World Cup title in India this week. **Greg Miles** learns that four Kent ladies will play a big part.

ENGLAND'S cricket team will be looking to continue their near-domination of the women's game by defending their World Cup crown in India this week.

It's been a remarkable decade for the women's game as the honours have stacked up under the stewardship of Kent and England captain Charlotte Edwards.

That international success has also been copied domestically, with Kent riding high in the county championships and boasting six England regulars in their ranks.

Four of those – Edwards, Tammy Beaumont, Laura Marsh and Lydia Greenway – are a part of the squad in the subcontinent.

England claimed the title with a nerve-racking four-wicket win over New Zealand four years ago when Greenway was just 23.

Now, at 27, she's one of the more senior members of the side, having been a part of that victory while also tasting disappointment in the four-run T20 World Cup final defeat to Australia in October.

The batswoman from Orpington is hoping the pain of that loss will give England the edge in the 50-over format of the game this time around.

"I think it's still quite a fresh disappointment, so to have another big tournament come round quickly is good for us," she said. "Even though it's a different format of the game, it can give us that extra drive. We don't really want to dwell on it too much."

While Greenway concedes they might be favourites, she is ignoring the fact that they're defending champions, acknowledging there's more of a level playing field in the sport these days.

"Obviously, having won it in the past, it gives us a reassurance that we know what we're doing. But that was a long time ago," she said.

"We want to make sure we play one game at a time and not get ahead of ourselves – we are good at doing that – and hopefully things can take care of themselves.

"Things have been brought closer together in terms of skill levels in international cricket. We might be favourites, but we won't focus on that."

Greenway admits the Kent link should prove beneficial on the international stage.

"As a team we're in a good place," she said. "We have got more senior players now. The amount of caps we have got is quite a high number. We have a good balance.

"World Cups are what you train for. It's the pinnacle of our sport. We want to go out and make the most of the opportunity."

■ **England Women's games will be broadcast on BBC Radio, and 10 games from across the competition, including the final, will be shown live on Sky Sports.**

GROUP A FIXTURES

Saturday, February 2
England v Sri Lanka – Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. 3.30am start.
Monday, February 4
India v England – Middle Income Group Ground, Bandra, Mumbai. 3.30am start.
Wednesday, February 6
England v West Indies – Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai. 9am start.

Final scheduled for Sunday, February 17, 9am start. (GMT start times)

Pictures: GETTY

LEGEND: Kent and England captain Charlotte Edwards (above) and Lydia Greenway (left) are key members of England's World Cup squad

FACT FILE ON...

Name: Tamsin Beaumont
Born: March 11, 1991, Dover
Position: Batting wicketkeeper
England ODI debut: v West Indies, November 2009. 14 not out.
High score: Kent v Surrey – 136

FOR Tammy Beaumont the World Cup represents a new chapter in her flourishing career.

The 21-year-old, who first picked up a bat at Sandwich Cricket Club, has quickly established herself in Kent's successful side, opening the batting with Charlotte Edwards. However, she's had to be patient in the national side, with Sarah Taylor keeping her on the sidelines.

Beaumont – picked for the 2009 World Cup win, but not the T20 squad in October – has seen big changes during her short time in the game.

"I think it's definitely got a lot bigger since I started playing," she said.

"The number of women clubs now is still growing and it's brilliant. It's down to the success of the girls from the 2009 winning squad.

"It was in Australia, so I was staying up late to watch the first 15 overs of it and then recording it and watching the rest in the morning."

FOOTBALL

Darts lose frontman Crawford to Barnet

DARTFORD have lost star striker Harry Crawford to League Two side Barnet.

The young striker signed at the Princes Park Stadium in the summer following his release by Southend United, going on to score 12 goals in 24 appearances.

Barnet, managed by Dutch legend Edgar Davids, lodged a seven-day approach for the frontman last week and signed him on a three-year contract on Thursday.

A statement from Dartford said: "When Harry joined DFC he stressed he wanted to return to full-time football as soon as possible.

"As advised from his agent he did not want to commit to a contract.

"We would like to thank Harry for his time here at DFC and wish him the best of luck."

SPEEDWAY

Mason confirmed as Kent Kings captain

THE first details have been revealed about the county's new speedway team based in Sittingbourne.

The team, who will be based at Sittingbourne's greyhound stadium, Central Park, will be known as the Kent Kings. They have already signed up their team captain for the National League season, which starts in May.

Former Conference League champion David Mason will lead the team, which is expected to feature a number of young riders.

The Kings will be managed by John Sampford, who moves from the Rye House Rockets.

Race nights will be on Mondays, with the first meeting scheduled for Bank Holiday Monday, May 6.

■ **Visit www.kentkings.com for information**

FOOTBALL

Essam leaves Gills for League One challenge

CONNOR Essam has joined Crawley Town on a free transfer.

The 20-year-old defender has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract at the League One club after being made available for transfer by Gillingham boss Martin Allen.

"Things haven't worked out for me at Gillingham this season, but I feel I have a lot to offer and Crawley is getting a reputation for developing young players. I think I can improve here and hopefully help the boys push on towards the play-offs," he said.

Essam made 18 appearances at the club after making his debut against Southend United last February. He also had loan spells at Dover Athletic, Dartford, Bishops Stortford and Luton Town.

CRICKET

Northeast chosen for MCC tour with greats

KENT'S Sam Northeast has been named in the MCC squad to play in the UAE in March.

He will represent the MCC in a match against county champions Warwickshire at the Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi from Sunday to Wednesday, March 24-27.

Hampshire's Jimmy Adams and Northeast will be making their debuts for the club and be joined at the top of the MCC batting order by Middlesex and former Kent favourite Joe Denly and Indian legend Rahul Dravid.

Before the Champion County match, MCC will play against Sussex and Warwickshire in the Emirates Airline Twenty20 Trophy on Thursday and Friday, March 21-22, at Dubai's Sevens Stadium. South African and Durham player Dale Benkenstein will captain the side.

FOOTBALL

Dover challenge too hard to turn down for returning hero Kinnear

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

NEW Dover boss Chris Kinnear admits he will be taking it one step at a time at the Crabble Ground.

Kinnear started his second spell in charge at the club earlier this week after an emergency board meeting was called where it was decided to place Nicky Forster on 'gardening leave' after a disappointing run of results.

Kinnear was loath to leave behind Ryman Premier side Margate, whom he had turned into promotion-hopefuls after a difficult few years.

However, the lure of "well-run" Dover and the chance to link up again with former Margate and now Dover chairman Jim Parmenter proved too much to resist.

He's also taken Gate's assistant manager and former Dover favourite Jake Leberl, who had two spells at the club, with him for his new challenge.

Kinnear said: "I got a phone call from Jim [Parmenter] saying do I fancy it – 'you've got a few hours'. It was one of those 'what do I do?' moments.

"They have got everything set up – I've been there before. I know all the supporters there and it's a well-run club. They have got everything in place, whereas Margate haven't.

"I had an excellent group of young players at Margate – it was very hard to leave them. I'm hoping they can get themselves promoted."

His appointment went down well with fans, who remember his first 10 years in charge from 1985 to 1995, when he guided them from the bottom of the Southern League to the Conference in three seasons.

His association ended with Dover when he left the game to look after his young family. He then had a successful few years in his first stint at Margate, enjoying another two promotions in three years to reach the Conference.

He left in 2005 and went on to work as a scout for clubs such as Wolves before returning to the Thanet club in the summer of 2011. He revealed it was a tough decision to leave Dover in '95.

"I had to look after the kids after my marriage broke up," he said.

"We were mid-table at the time. I was trying to do the job, but I couldn't. Like everybody would say, your family comes first. I have got a new life now and the kids are growing up.

"When I was at Margate before, we were at the top of the table for a while and, who knows, we could have gone into the Football League.

"I had an offer to go to Dagenham – they had arranged compensation and everything – but the kids weren't that old, so I had to turn them down.

"I was only 30 years old when I came to Dover before. Those first 10 years were the most impressionable I could have had."

While some fans may be dreaming of the heady heights of the League Football, Kinnear wants to take one step at a time.

He is also unsure how much, if at all, the squad will change.

"The first thing I have got to worry about is getting to the Conference Premier," he said.

"When we get there, then we have to reassess and see what it takes to get to the next level. I have got to think about what I can do now.

"I have got to work with what I have got. I have got to see what the players are up to. They are obviously good players."

His predecessor Forster paid the price for five straight defeats that opened up a gap between themselves and Blue Square South leaders Salisbury.

Before Christmas they had won six games in a row and were just two points adrift.

The swift decision to get rid of the former Reading and Gillingham striker doesn't give Kinnear any cause for concern, though.

"At the end of the day it's a results business," he said. "I don't look back – you have got to look forward. I have never worried about that.

"When I went back to Margate last time, I think they'd had about seven managers in five years. I could have been another statistic.

"Me and Jake have confidence in our ability to manage successful sides."

LEGEND: Chris Kinnear had 10 years at Dover in his first spell

Margate's boss hunt

Kinnear's departure from Margate set the wheels in motion for a potential Kent managerial merry-go-round this week.

Margate confirmed they had spoken to Folkestone Invicta manager Neil Cugley about the position at the beginning of the week; however, the 56-year-old, who's been in charge at Invicta for the last 15 years, decided to stay put.

For the meantime Margate goalkeeper Craig Holloway has been appointed as caretaker.

The 28-year-old, who only signed in the summer, has quickly moved to bring some familiar faces into the dugout with him.

Former Gate striker Danny Hockton joins as coach, while former Gills and Wolves midfielder Simon Osborn is his new assistant.

HOCKEY

South Africa trip beckons for Canterbury's England aces

NEWTON: First time

CANTERBURY duo Dilly Newton and Susannah Townsend have been called up for England's tour of South Africa next month.

Townsend and Newton, both 23, are part of a youthful women's team flying out to Cape Town for the week-long Investec Challenge tournament.

For eight of the 18-strong squad it will be their first taste of senior international hockey against the likes of The Netherlands, Australia and hosts South Africa.

Newton hasn't represented England but has played seven times for Great Britain, while Townsend has five caps for England but hasn't represented GB yet.

They were both involved in the GB training squad leading up to last summer's Olympics.

England will face hosts South Africa in their opening match on Monday, February 4, before taking on the Dutch the following evening.

An 'Ashes' clash with Australia rounds off England's group matches on Thursday, Thursday 7, with semi-finals and medal matches due to take place the following day.

TOWNSEND: captain

Gills team of the Century

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

STEVE BRUCE

DOB: December 31, 1960
Gills stats: 205 appearances, 29 goals
Clubs: Gillingham, Norwich, Man Utd, Birmingham City, Sheffield United

STEVE Bruce was a promising schoolboy footballer but was rejected by several professional clubs as a youngster – until her earned his big break at Priestfield.

He was about to start work as an apprentice plumber at a dockyard when he was offered a trial along with Peter Beardsley, who he played with at the famous Wallsend Boys club in north-east England.

Gills manager Gerry Summers spotted him at an international youth tournament playing for Wallsend and offered Bruce, who was playing as a midfielder at the time, a chance.

He was given an apprenticeship and moulded into a centre back under the guidance of Gillingham's legendary youth coach Bill 'Buster' Collins.

Bruce spent his first season in 1978/79 in the club's reserves, and remarkably finished as the top goalscorer with 18 to his name.

In January 1979, he was selected for England's youth team and went on to gain eight caps, playing in the 1980 European under-18 championship.

He was almost given his debut at the end of the 1978/79 season, but Summers decided against it at the last minute with the club chasing promotion from the Third Division.

But Bruce made his senior bow the following season, on August 11, in a League Cup tie against Luton Town.

It was a debut season to remember as he won the player of the year award.

He was later twice voted into the PFA's Third Division team of the year.

He eventually got his big move to Division One side Norwich City in August 1984 for a fee of about £130,000.

■ **So, do you agree?** Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email **greg.miles@archant.co.uk** or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SR**

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